

## PLO gets \$3.3m from private Saudi donors

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia on Saturday passed on 12.6 million riyals (\$3.3 million) of private cash donations to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Saudi Press Agency said. It said the amount was the first instalment of donations collected by the "Popular Committee for the Support of the Palestinian Mujahadeen" since the beginning of the Islamic calendar year, 45 days ago. The Saudi government gave the PLO a total of more than \$1 billion in the 10-year period up to the start of the Gulf crisis marked by Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. It has since given nothing to the PLO because of the group's support for Iraq in the crisis. Official figures show that the Saudi government made six instalments of private donations to the PLO during the previous Islamic calendar year amounting to about \$15 million.

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## Cabinet transfers Hamami to base

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday approved the transfer of Jordan's ambassador in Washington Hussein Hamami to his base at the Foreign Ministry. The Cabinet also approved Jordan's participation in an exhibition to be organised by the United Nations Educational and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) in Paris from Sept. 9 to 13 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the International Cultural Heritage Agreement. The Council of Ministers also approved Jordan's participation in the ordinary meeting of the United Nations Refugees and Works Agency (UNRWA) consultative committee due to open in Vienna Sept. 10. The Jordanian delegation to the meeting will be headed by the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs director, Adel Irshid.

## Kuwaiti Interior minister in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Kuwait's interior minister, Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al Jaber Al Sabah, arrived in Tehran on Saturday for talks with Iranian officials, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said. The agency said Sheikh Ahmad was welcomed at the airport by his Iranian counterpart, Abdullah Nouri. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah has said repeatedly that the emirate is interested in stronger ties with Iran, based on non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Relations between Iran and the Gulf Arab states have improved as President Hashemi Rafsanjani tries to end his country's revolutionary isolation.

## Polisario expels senior defector

ALGIERS (R) — Senior Polisario leader Ibrahim Hakim has been expelled from the guerrilla movement, which accused him of treason for defecting to Morocco, Algerian radio reported on Friday. It said Mr. Hakim had also been stripped off all his functions. Foreign minister of the self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) for 10 years, and until recently its ambassador in Algiers, Mr. Hakim became the highest-ranking Polisario leader to defect when he arrived in Rabat on Tuesday. On Thursday Polisario said Mr. Hakim had been replaced as ambassador in Algiers by Mohammed Lamine Ahmad. A recorded message said the embassy telephone had been cut off.

## Sudan to enforce national service

KHARTOUM (R) — Compulsory military service is to be rigorously enforced in Sudan nine years after the start of the civil war in the south of the country. State Radio Omdurman reported on Saturday that head of state Omar Hassan Al Bashir has signed a new national service act into law replacing a three-year-old national service law that was only loosely applied. The radio said every Sudanese aged between 18 and 33 would have to perform national service and anyone due for conscription would not be allowed to leave Sudan. University graduates would serve for a year and school leavers for 18 months, the radio reported. No reason was cited for the decision which comes at a time when Khartoum says it is winning the war against rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army in southern Sudan.

## Clashes in Turkey on Kurdish anniversary

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — A demonstrator died and dozens were wounded in clashes with police on Saturday, the eighth anniversary of a separatist revolt in southeast Turkey. Shops were closed in most towns in the eastern and southwestern provinces of Mardin, Hakkari, Sirnak, Diyarbakir and Siirt, witnesses said. A demonstrator died and four were wounded when police opened fire to break up a Kurdish rally in the town of Hazeri. Fourteen marchers were wounded at Kocakoy and 15 in Derik, witnesses said.

## Palestinians say bilateral talks could be delayed

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leaders are calling for a delay in the resumption of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks following the Bush administration's decision to grant \$10 billion in loan guarantees for Israel.

It was not immediately known how much support the Palestinian call has received from the other Arab parties involved in the bilateral talks — Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Both Jordan and Syria have said that they were seeking details of the loan guarantees agreement, which was announced by U.S. President George Bush following a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week, and whether the conditions attached to it include a total freeze in Israel's settlement construction activities in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian approach to the issue is based on the argument that if the loan guarantees are to be granted on the basis of Israel freezing the construction of what it calls "political" settlements and continuing with "security settlements," then the Arab side should openly convey its disappointment with Washington's decision by "delaying" the resumption of the bilateral talks, scheduled to begin in Washington on Aug. 24.

Among the Palestinian leaders publicly calling for a delay are Nabil Shaath, a close advisor to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), and several West Bank leaders and peace delegates, including Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij.

The Aug. 24 date for the start of the sixth round of Arab-Israeli talks might be delayed," Dr. Shaath was quoted as saying in a Cairo-dated Associated Press dispatch. "The Palestinian leadership is carefully considering its decision about the date for the talks... one of the Palestinian options is to delay the sixth round."

What Dr. Shaath left unsaid was explained in Amman by Mr. Hawatmeh. "The loan guarantees is a political triumph for both Israel and the United States," he told the Jordan Times. "If the guarantees are not in return for a total freeze in Israel's settlement activities then we should make our stand clear to the U.S."

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the PLO, was quoted as saying by Libya's official news agency, JANA, that the Palestinian leadership had not taken a final decision on Palestinian participation in the Aug. 24 talks in Washington.

In Amman, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said last week that Jordan, while viewing the granting of the loan guarantees as changing the givens in the Middle East peace process, was awaiting more details of the Bush-Rabin agreement.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharras also made a similar comment last week.

Mr. Rabin, who returned to the U.S. said President Bush understands that there will not be a total freeze in settlements as called for by the Arabs.

The president showed understanding to the problems that we inherited from the former government; for example, that there will be a continuation of building of between 10,000 to 11,000 housing units in the occupied territories," Mr. Rabin said.

Since taking over last month, Mr. Rabin's government has taken steps to curb settlement in the occupied territories, including cancelling road construction, and not signing new housing contracts. The Labour-led government has also temporarily halted granting government-controlled land for private construction and stopped investment in the occupied territories.

No senior Jordanian official was immediately available for comment on Dr. Shaath's suggestion that the talks could be delayed. But a seasoned analyst agreed that the American loan guarantees have injected a "new, negative element into the peace process."

"It is definitely going to have negative repercussions in the peace process," said the analyst. "I cannot say what form or content these will take, but the fact remains that Israel has been given a free bonus while the Palestinians get nothing."

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## King leaves hospital today after treatment

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein is expected to be released from hospital today after undergoing treatment for a minor haemorrhage in his urinary tract, his physician said Saturday.

Dr. Samir Farraj said the King, who was admitted to the King Hussein Medical Centre Saturday morning, was in good health and that the haemorrhage was diminishing gradually.

Dr. Farraj said King Hussein underwent medical tests after suffering minor bleeding Saturday morning.

"He underwent cystoscopy today and we found that he suffered haematuria" — the medical term for urinary bleeding — Dr. Farraj said.

"The King is in excellent shape now," Dr. Farraj added.

Hospital staff and the Royal Court telephone operators said the public had

bombarded them with calls to ask after the King's health.

"It is chaos, we cannot cope with the incoming phone calls any more," one operator was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Others flocked to the King Hussein Medical Centre to wish him a speedy recovery.

Officials said the King had planned to fly to Oman Sunday to convey condolences to Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id on the death of his mother but because of the health problems sent Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to Muscat.

The King, 56, was in hospital, for a minor operation in January this year. He was hospitalised in June last year with an irregular heart beat which doctors said was due to exhaustion.

The Jordan Times wishes His Majesty a speedy and total recovery.

## Sharif Zeid returns from Oman after conveying condolences

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein sent Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to Oman on Saturday with condolences for Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id on the death of his mother, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Sultan Qaboos's mother died on Thursday.

Sharif Zeid, who was accompanied by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, offered condolences to Sultan Qaboos, his family and the Omani people on behalf of King Hussein, the Hashemite family and the Jordanian people.

The prime minister and Prince Ra'ad returned home Saturday evening.

Sharif Zeid told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Sultan Qaboos asked him and Prince Ra'ad to convey to the King his greetings and best wishes of speedy recovery (see story above) and thanks for his condolences.

Official and public delegations from various parts of Jordan visited the Omani embassy in Amman to offer condolences over the death of Sultan Qaboos's mother.

The embassy Thursday opened a condolences register.

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## Iraq tightens measures to fight shortages resulting from sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Saturday farmers had two weeks to hand over stores of grain or be punished in a drive to end a severe shortage of supplies under U.N. sanctions.

The official daily Al Jumhuriyah said the deadline was one of a series of steps to stamp out profiteering, hoarding, middlemen and incompetent officials.

Some traders, who declined to be named, forecast the crackdown would only deepen Iraq's problems as many merchants feared being caught in the dragnet and had cut back on orders.

"It is a big problem," a Baghdad businessman told Reuters. "The government wants us to bring in more food but is watching us very closely. Many of us are worried about future."

Al Jumhuriyah quoted Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh as saying large quantities of rice, sugar and oil were on their way to Iraq to stabilise prices.

Shortages of such commodities deepened late last month when hundreds of traders were rounded up on suspicion of profiteering and more than 40 executed.

A dispute between Kurdish groups also stopped trucks entering Iraq from Turkey.

President Saddam Hussein said Wednesday "stringent measures" similar to those taken against the profiteers would be taken against

incompetent officials and cheating merchants.

Mr. Saleh said a new price structure for food sold in Iraq's markets would be enforced — the cost plus transport charges and 10 per cent for wholesalers and five per cent for retailers.

Food prices would be calculated by the black market rate of the Iraqi dinar instead of the official rate, Mr. Saleh said. The official rate is \$3.10 for each dinar, currently about 22 to the dollar on the unofficial market.

Agriculture Minister Abdul Wahab Mahmoud Al Sabbagh was quoted by the daily as saying a plan had been drawn up to increase supplies and farmers had to deliver all wheat and barley within two weeks or face severe punishment.

Authorities banned private trade in wheat and barley in May in a drive to ship this year's harvest into government silos to keep the rationing system working.

Ministry of Agriculture officials have said this year's harvest was good but there was a lack of machinery to gather it.

Iraq needs almost three million tonnes of wheat each year to maintain its rationing system, which provides people with half their daily needs. The remainder has to be found on the open market.

Food and medicine are exempt from U.N. sanctions imposed days after Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990. But the Iraqi government says it cannot afford to buy them with its assets abroad frozen and oil exports blocked.

Interior Minister Under-Secretary Younis Suleiman Hassan said security forces had stepped up checking prices and supplies.

The daily Babil said Iraqi Airways would ask the U.N. Sanctions Committee to authorise Iraqi Boeing 707 planes to fly meat from Khartoum, Sudan, to Baghdad.

The application would be made under a U.N. Security Council resolution allowing such flights as long as the aircraft were searched, Babil added.

It quoted Iraqi Airways Director-General Nouredin Al Safi as saying he would head an Iraqi delegation to talks with the sanctions committee in New York at the end of this month.

He said Baghdad would also call for the return of Iraqi planes in Tunisia, Jordan and Iran.

Domestic commercial flights were halted in June because of a lack of spare parts and sanctions have closed Iraq's airspace to international flights.

Baghdad has appealed repeatedly to the sanctions committee to allow the return of 33 of its aircraft stranded abroad.

## Afghan government urges U.N. mediation

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan's Islamic government has urged the United Nations to intervene to help end fighting in the capital Kabul while other Mujahadeen leaders failed on Saturday to broker a ceasefire.

The deadly hail of rocket fire by the dissident Mujahadeen Hezb-e-Islami group nevertheless stopped after a night of intermittent shelling, a Mujahadeen source said.

"It looks as if the Hezb has been defeated," he said.

The bombardment has killed and injured hundreds in the city since last Monday.

A Hezb spokesman said fighting still raged in the south and east and accused the "unholy alliance" in Kabul of drafting residents into service and sending them to the front line.

"When they reach the front they run to us," he said by telephone from the Pakistani border town of Peshawar.

Two members of Kabul's ruling leadership council and formerly communist Uzbek militia leader General Rashid Dostum asked the U.N. to intervene late on Friday.

U.N. intervention could include peace-keeping forces and humanitarian aid, Gen. Dostum's deputy, Gen. Majid Khan, said.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has issued a second appeal for an end to the fighting.

Troops loyal to the three-month-old government said on Friday they had routed the Hezb, inflicting heavy casualties.

A Hezb spokesman disputed the claim, saying the group had shot down a government jet fighter near the Defence Ministry in the south of the city and the fighting was continuing.

A spokesman for a Hezb splinter faction led by veteran leader Yousif Khalis said another Mujahadeen party, the Ittehad-e-Islami, shot down the plane using a U.S. shoulder-launched Stinger missile, the first to be fired in this latest, and possibly bloodiest, round of the 14-year Afghan civil war.

Mr. Khalis and moderate leader Nabi Mohammad Mohammadi have written to both sides asking

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## 1 killed, property damaged in violence in north

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A one-year feud over money led to a death and riots which caused extensive damages in a small northern village on Friday, officials and residents reported Saturday.

According to sources, a young man, identified only as "YTM," had allegedly cheated another man, identified as "MJ," for an amount of JD12,000 one year ago and despite repeated promises and a court decision did not return the money.

The two — residents of the village of Kufor Som about 17 kilometres north of Irbid — met Friday in an Irbid suburb and clashed over the dispute over money, according to witnesses.

"(YTM) pulled out a gun and shot (MJ) dead," said an eyewitness. Another who claimed he was also an eyewitness reported that "YTM" shot himself in the leg, although this could not be confirmed.

But, according to a statement issued by Interior Minister Jawdat Shoul, who visited the area Saturday, the deceased was carrying the gun and he was killed in the ensuing fight. The other was injured and is now undergoing treatment, the minister said.

Police arrived at the scene and took YTM into custody and the body of deceased to his family in Kufor Som, according to the villagers.

A group of young men from the family of the deceased, when they heard of the death and its circumstances, took the body to a house of one of the alleged killer's relatives in "a sign of protest that the murder would not go unavenged," said one villager.

"Then they went on a rampage through the village attacking the property of members of the family of the alleged killer, according to the villagers. 'Several houses and a car were burnt,' he added.

(Continued on page 5)

## 7 Israeli soldiers injured in crash after Gaza stoning

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Seven Israeli soldiers were injured when their vehicle crashed after coming under a hail of stones in the occupied Gaza Strip refugee camp of Nuseirat on Saturday, military sources said.

"This afternoon stones were thrown at an army patrol in Nuseirat, as a result the (army) driver lost control of his vehicle and hit another army vehicle. Seven soldiers were hurt, one seriously," a military source said.

In the occupied West Bank, five Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem, including a two-year-old child, were injured when masked men threw a bottle of acid which smashed through the windshield of their car near Nabulus on Friday night, the military sources said.

The attackers apparently thought the five were Jews, the sources said, because they in a car with yellow number plates.

Palestinians living in Arab East Jerusalem are issued the yellow plates given Israeli citizens despite their refusal to accept citizenship in the Jewish state. Palestinians living in the West

Bank are issued blue number plates.

Masked Palestinian activists broke into a hospital and shot dead a Palestinian they suspected of collaborating with Israel as he was recovering from previous gunshot wounds, Arab reports said.

They said the Red Eagles, a group aligned with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, claimed responsibility for the killing.

Earlier on Friday a Palestinian activist was killed in an explosion in the occupied West Bank.

Palestinian sources said the blast was apparently triggered by explosives he was carrying. The man, identified as Abdul Kader Ismail, 23, was a known supporter of Hamas.

## Syria: U.S. arms sent to Israel threaten Arabs

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria accused the United States on Saturday of supplying Israel with advanced weapons that could only be used against the Jewish state's Arab neighbours. The official daily Tishreen, making no mention of an Israeli accusation that Syria had test-launched advanced Scud missiles, said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin returned from Washington with more than billions of dollars in U.S. loan guarantees. "It is natural that the weapons deal and the revival of the strategic alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv evoked outrage and deep concern among Arabs," it said. "The strategic alliance could not be directed against any side but Arabs. The American weapons would be used in aggression against Arab countries." Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur said on Thursday that Syria, which is negotiating with Israel at the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks, had test-launched advanced Scud missiles. He threatened to attack Damascus if Syria fired a missile at Israel.



# Egypt, Sudan to resume border talks

CAIRO (R) — A senior Sudanese official said on Saturday Sudan and Egypt had agreed to resume talks on a disputed border strip and stop media campaigns that have further strained relations.

Ali Osman Yasseen, first under-secretary at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, told a news conference he reached the agreement in two meetings in Cairo this week with Osama Al Baz, President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser.

"We have agreed to handle the situation through several means, first and foremost an end to the escalation of media campaigns to put an end to the political tension between the two countries," he told reporters at the Sudanese embassy.

"We also agreed to convene

the joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee (on the border dispute) in Cairo as early as the first week of October," Mr. Yasseen added.

The committee held its first meeting in Khartoum in April but a second meeting set for Cairo never took place. Each side blamed the other for the failure.

Mr. Yasseen denied Egyptian accusations that Sudan was providing arms and training for Muslim militants and said his country was willing to allow inspectors from Cairo to check such claims.

"It's a mere allegation. It doesn't have any connection with the truth. It's a falsification of facts. It's a pretext for something which I don't know what it is," he said.

"We are ready for even Egyptian security people to come and

inspect for themselves," he added.

But Mr. Yasseen repeated charges that Egypt was helping Sudanese dissidents.

"Sudan has a lot of complaints against Egypt, giving shelter and support to the opposition here and there... we talked about the matter and showed our resentment about it."

On the disputed border triangle of Halaib, Mr. Yasseen said Sudan was ready to give up its claim to the territory if it was proved Egyptian. But he added that the entire Sudanese people was ready to die for it if it proved otherwise.

Asked about press reports that Egypt had pushed an army brigade into the strip, Mr. Yasseen said Khartoum opposed certain Egyptian measures in Halaib but

declined to give examples.

The dispute surfaced in December when Sudan awarded a Canadian company a concession to drill for oil there. Egypt says the territory is Egyptian under a 1899 accord but that it had agreed to leave it under Sudanese administration for humanitarian reasons.

Ties between Cairo and Khartoum had been strained since it became clear that Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir, who took over in an army coup in 1989, supported Islamic fundamentalists.

Egypt, a key member of the U.S.-led alliance that ended the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in 1991, was also angered by Sudan's support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

## Iran retaliates to British move with 3 expulsions

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran on Saturday ordered the expulsion of three Britons, including an embassy employee, for "illegal activities," the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said.

It was the latest in a series of tit-for-tat expulsions involving the two countries and indicated a further worsening in relations between London and Tehran.

On Friday, Britain announced it had ordered an Iranian diplomat, First Secretary Ali Rajabi, to leave the country.

The move followed the arrest and expulsion in June of Geoffrey Brammer, third secretary to Britain's Tehran embassy. Iran claimed he was a spy. Britain denied it.

The Iranian agency report, monitored in Cyprus, said Charge d'Affaires David Reddaway was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on Saturday and told the three Britons must leave within a week. It did not spell out the "illegal activities." It did not name those being expelled or give their names, but said they included an embassy employee.

Late last month, Britain ordered the expulsion of three Iranians — two local embassy employees and a student — accused of unspecified intelligence activities but suspected of plotting to kill British author Salman Rushdie.

Britain said on Friday it had also ordered out an Iranian diplomat in retaliation for Iran's expulsions.

The two countries cut ties after Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a death order against Mr. Rushdie for his novel, "The Satanic Verses." Ayatollah Khomeini denounced the novel as blasphemous and insulting to Islam.

Mr. Rushdie has been in hiding since the order was issued. It was reaffirmed last month by Iran's parliament.

Britain and Iran restored relations in September 1990 despite the order remaining in force — something which outraged Mr. Rushdie's supporters — and ties had been slowly improving with talk of a possible exchange of ambassadors.

British officials refused to comment on the current status of bilateral ties but a Foreign Office spokesman said last month that relations were "already fragile."

Britain said on Friday that Iran's charge d'affaires was called in to the Foreign Office on Aug. 4 and told that First Secretary Ali Rajavi had three weeks to leave.

Britain had delivered a strong protest to Iran when Mr. Brammer was arrested in Tehran by security officials after a game of squash with an Iranian pilot with whom he had made friends.

Iran alleged he had formed the friendship at part of a plan to spy on Iran. He was not mistreated.

Officials in London said Mr. Rajavi has not yet left the country.

## Nayef Ali Nayef Sweitat — prisoner of conscience

NAYEF 'ALI NAYEF SWEITAT from Jenin refugee camp on the West Bank was arrested by members of the Israeli border police on April 30, 1992. He was first taken to the Jenin military compound, and later transferred to Al Fara'a detention centre, where he was issued with a six-month administrative detention order. He was then taken to the Ketziot detention centre in southern Israel where the majority of "administrative detainees" are held. He is accused of being a senior activist in Fateh, (a faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)).

Mr. Sweitat is a 35-year-old journalist for the Arabic language newspaper Al Sha'b, published in East Jerusalem. He also owns the Hittin Press Service in Jenin refugee camp. He married in 1983 and had a daughter, but his wife died in a car accident in 1986 during one of his previous periods of imprisonment. He has since married again. His second child was born about a week after his most recent arrest. In 1987 he graduated in Middle East Studies from Bir Zeit University, where he was a president of the Bir Zeit Student Council. In early 1992 he was appointed as an adviser to the Palestinian delegation to the fourth round of the Middle East peace negotiations, but the Israeli authorities did not allow him to leave the occupied territories.

Mr. Sweitat has appealed against his "administrative detention" order. The appeal was first scheduled to be heard on May 20, 1992, but was postponed for one week as no judge was able to attend. On May 27, the appeal hearing was again postponed, as his file was not produced by the general security service.

Mr. Sweitat has given his lawyer the following statement:

"From November 1991 I have supported the peace process with all my heart and might... I joined the 'political committees' in Jenin, whose purpose was to support the peace process, to explain to people the importance

of talks and dialogue to replace violence and bloodshed. When I was given to understand that the committees were illegal, I left them, and declared (my leaving) publicly."

In his statement Mr. Sweitat describes how he had been asked to visit the military commander of the Jenin area the day after his declaration had been printed in the press. He says he told the commander that he had left the committees because he did not want to go back to prison. The commander then apparently told him that the committees' activities were not illegal, and encouraged him to continue his work in them, and to tell people that the peace process required patience and that no quick results should be expected. Mr. Sweitat then continued:

"I remained a peace activist and was later appointed as an advisor to the Palestinian delegation to the fourth round of the peace talks... I was asked to leave for Jordan to travel to the USA on Feb. 22, 1992, but I was stopped on the bridge and was returned without any explanation. In a way I was glad personally as my wife was pregnant with her first child, and I wanted to wait by her side for the baby. I never imagined what was in store for me."

Mr. Sweitat denies membership of Fateh or of the Shabiba (a youth organisation affiliated to Fateh). He points out that during his numerous arrests during the intifada he has never been interrogated about membership of these organisations, or charged and tried, and that he has not been incriminated in the confessions of any other alleged activist.

**Previous arrests**

Mr. Sweitat has been imprisoned on numerous occasions in 1975 he was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for membership of Fateh. He was released in 1981. In May 1983 he was detained for 17 days while he was president of the Bir

Zeit Student Council. In October 1983 he was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment on charges of making contact with an illegal organisation.

He was arrested again on Dec. 25, 1985 and placed under six months' "administrative detention," which was reduced to four months on appeal. In 1986 and 1987 he was arrested several times for short periods and was released without charge. Upon his graduation from university in 1987 he was placed under house arrest in Jenin for six months, which was extended to one year.

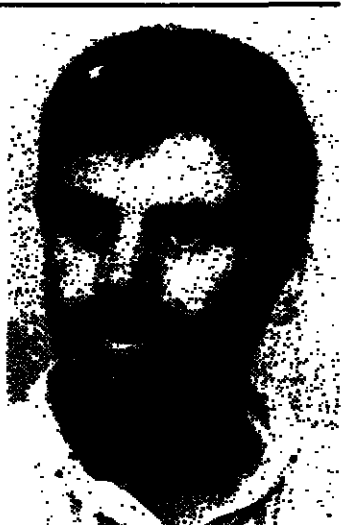
On March 15, 1988, a few days before the town arrest order was due to expire, he was placed in "administrative detention" for six months, which was renewed on expiry for a further six months. He was released on March 21, 1989.

On Nov. 12, 1989 he was arrested again, and issued with a one-year "administrative detention" order. His appeal against this order was rejected, the judge stating that the classified evidence which could not be revealed for security reasons contained:

"Clear, convincing and unequivocal evidence indicating that the appellant is a senior activist in the Fateh organisation. The appellant is party to widespread activities which may indicate his senior position and the extent of his influence on events in the Jenin region and even beyond. The extent and character of the appellant's activity, his position and, in addition, his determination to promote the objectives of the organisation of which he is a member lead us to the conclusion that the appellant's hostile activity is prolonged and extensive."

He was released on Nov. 11, 1990.

Mr. Sweitat was once more rearrested on Feb. 8, 1991 during the Gulf war. He was later issued with a six-month "administrative detention" order which was reduced to four-and-a-half months of appeal. He was released on June 30, 1991.



Nayef Ali Nayef Sweitat  
Amnesty's concerns

Amnesty International acknowledges that various Palestinian groupings including Fateh do advocate violence against Israel and have carried out acts of violence. However it does not consider that membership of or association with the PLO or one of its factions is in itself conclusive evidence that a certain individual has used or advocated violence. In determining whether an individual is a prisoner of conscience, Amnesty International looks into whether the individual personally used or advocated violence in the circumstances relating to his or her arrest. In other words, it examines any specific opinions or acts attributed to the person in question beyond mere membership of the organisation.

Amnesty International notes in this case that the Israeli authorities have not provided any evidence to either Mr. Sweitat or his lawyer about the activities he is alleged to have carried out on behalf of Fateh or even to prove his alleged membership. Mr. Sweitat has denied membership of Fateh and points out that since the start of the intifada he has never been interrogated about his alleged activities in that organisation. Amnesty International also notes that at no point has he been referred to as someone who used or advocated violence. He has declared openly his commitment to a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

— Amnesty International.

# Cyprus talks to resume on Oct. 26

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Talks on reunifying the divided island of Cyprus, which have continued for more than a month, adjourned on Friday and will resume at the United Nations on Oct. 26, a U.N. spokeswoman announced.

The talks, aimed at negotiating an agreement on establishing a two-zone federation, have involved Cypriot President George Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

Cyprus has been virtually partitioned since 1974 when Turkish troops landed in the north of the island after a brief coup in Nicosia engineered by the junta then ruling Greece.

The U.N. announcement did not say what progress, if any, had been made during the talks, which included a session from June 18 to 23 and continued uninterrupted after resuming on July 15.

After holding numerous separate meetings with Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and his senior aides, Mr. Vassiliou and Mr. Denktaş began daily joint sessions with him only on Wednesday of last week.

Friday's latest session lasted 30 minutes and was apparently only to settle arrangements for the next round.

"The joint talks will reconvene at United Nations headquarters on Monday, Oct. 26, 1992," the U.N. spokeswoman said.

The secretary-general would now "report to the Security Council on the talks that have taken place during these past weeks and on the positions held by the two sides," she added.

The council's five permanent members — the United States, Britain, China, France and Russia — have been closely following the negotiations and acting in support of Dr. Ghali, mainly by urging Mr. Denktaş to accept the secretary-general's proposals.

Several of the five permanent council members sent special envoys to New York for the duration of the talks.

Last week's meetings between Mr. Vassiliou and Mr. Denktaş

were their first substantive encounters since their last attempt to resolve the Cyprus problem under U.N. auspices collapsed in March 1990.

The negotiations have focused on a so-called "set of ideas" which Dr. Ghali presented to both sides. It includes a map showing the proposed division of the island into Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot provinces linked by a federal government.

Mr. Vassiliou and Denktaş have concentrated so far on the key issues of territory and displaced persons: How much of the 37 per cent of the island now held by the Turkish Cypriots would have to be handed over to the Greek Cypriots under a final settlement and what arrangements should be made for thousands of people displaced as a result of the fighting in 1974.

Mr. Vassiliou has called for these issues to be substantially settled before proceeding to other topics covered by the set of ideas. Mr. Denktaş has been anxious to proceed to the remaining issues, which include constitutional arrangements for the proposed federal state.

The Turkish Cypriots say they account for up to 23 per cent of the population while the Greek Cypriots say the correct figure is 18 per cent, excluding settlers from Turkey.

The U.N. said the goal of the talks "has remained that of negotiating an agreement on the basis of the set of ideas, including the secretary-general's suggestion on territorial adjustments and displaced persons."

While the secretary-general's map is understood to allot just over 28 per cent of the island's territory to the Turkish Cypriots, Mr. Denktaş has said he would accept a figure of "29 plus" — somewhere between 29 and 30 per cent.

A key sticking point has been the fate of the northern town of Morphou and its surrounding agricultural region. They are now held by the Turkish Cypriots who are unwilling to give them up, as proposed under the U.N. map.

## Saudi prince ordered to give deposition in 'slavery case'

HOUSTON (AP) — The brother of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd must submit a deposition in a civil case brought by two former employees who say the prince kept them as slaves in a Houston hotel, a state judge has ruled.

State District Judge Geraldine Tennant on Friday ordered Prince Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud to appear for the deposition on Sept. 18, despite arguments by his lawyer that the prince had difficulty speaking because of cancer of the jaw and mouth.

But plaintiff's attorney, Jerry S. Payne, said a witness was prepared to testify that the prince was healthy enough to have been visited by a prostitute several nights this week.

Mr. Payne also alleged the prince and his lawyer were attempting to stall the deposition until after the Nov. 3 presidential election. He claims the State Department planned to grant the prince retroactive diplomatic immunity, as it had in the past to members of the Saudi royal family.

Ms. Tennant said she would consider ordering an accelerated trial date.

In December, Sriyani Marian Fernando of Sri Lanka and Josephine Alicog of the Philippines fled the posh Ritz-Carlton Hotel, where they lived with the prince and his entourage. The prince had been staying at the hotel while he underwent cancer treatment.

The two workers alleged that the prince infrequently paid them, abused them and denied them medical treatment. They

also said they were forbidden to leave the premises, not allowed to communicate with their families, and that their passports were taken and not returned.

Ms. Fernando and Ms. Alicog subsequently filed a civil lawsuit against Prince Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and his former wife, Princess Noora, claiming false imprisonment and other violations.

Meanwhile, two law enforcement officers who had worked in their off hours for the prince and the former head of security at the Ritz-Carlton say they or their families had been threatened because of their involvement in the case.

Death threats also were received by Precinct 1 Constable Jack Abercia, who took one of the women into his home for protection following her departure from the hotel.

Mr. Abercia said Ms. Fernando moved to an undisclosed location after numerous telephone threats.

Charles McClellan said his termination last month as chief of security at the hotel was the result of not going along with a cover-up of the Saudi incident.

He also said he received two threats by telephone and on a third occasion was threatened by three Middle Eastern men who confronted him and his child in a restaurant parking lot.

Romy Smith, a former bodyguard for the prince, said he was shot at while riding his motorcycle because he told a story of slavery, corruption and prostitution at the hotel.

# Indian firm say chemical export to Syria will continue

BOMBAY (AP) — The Indian manufacturer of a chemical that can be used for weapons said Saturday he could not stop a shipment bound for Syria unless there is evidence the product will be misused.

The statement followed reports that a 45-tonne shipment of a pesticide ingredient exported by United Phosphorus Ltd. had been stopped in Cyprus and sent back for fear that Syria could use it to make chemical weapons.

The ingredient, trimethyl phosphite, is used to make the pesticide dichloro divinyl phosphate. But it also can be used for nerve gas.

United Phosphorus, a Bombay-based private firm, has signed an agreement to export a total of 90 tonnes of the chemical worth six million rupees (\$200,000 at the current exchange rate) to Setma Ltd. in Damascus.

The first half of the order of 45 tonnes reached Damascus on May 30, 1992, said Rajni Shroff, the company's owner.

Mr. Shroff told the Associated Press he "cannot stop the (second) shipment unless some evidence is given to the company that Syria is misusing the chemicals."

He said the chemical was exported to Syria "only after due verification and there is no possibility of misuse of the material."

The second consignment was shipped aboard a cargo liner, German Senator, on July 15. The ship was stopped from unloading in Cyprus, where it was to be transferred to a Syria-bound shipment.

An executive of United Phosphorus who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed the report and said the cargo still is on board the ship, but did not know the precise location of the ship on Saturday.

A Press Trust of India (PTI) report from Bonn said Wednesday that Germany asked Cyprus to intercept the shipment.

Mr. Shroff said the liner is owned by DSR-Senator Lines, based in Rostock, Germany.

He said an engineer from his company had visited Syria to ascertain whether Setma Ltd. had a pesticide plant.

He said he had obtained an "end use certificate" from the Syrian Chamber of Commerce, which was attested by the Indian embassy in Damascus.

An official from Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's office visited this week to ensure that it had taken "all safeguards" before exporting the chemical to Syria, Mr. Shroff said.

The official was "fully satisfied," he said.

United Phosphorus Ltd. has the capacity to manufacture 6,000 tonnes of trimethyl phosphite, Mr. Shroff said. It manufactures and exports other agro-chemicals and pesticides to Syria, Taiwan and Brazil.

Mr. Shroff said his company had negotiated an order to export trimethyl phosphite to a firm in the United States.

## Iran denies it sent agents to kill or kidnap 2 U.N. workers

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran Saturday denied Iraq's claim that Iranian agents tried to kill or kidnap United Nations personnel so that Baghdad would be blamed, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the reports in Iraq's state-run news media were "totally baseless."

"The latest accusation by the Iraqi News Agency is a fresh conspiracy hatched jointly by Baghdad and terrorist elements of the outlawed Mujahideen-e-Khalq organisation, who are supported by and based in Baghdad," it quoted the unnamed spokesman as saying.

The Mujahideen-e-Khalq is the largest of the Iranian exile opposition groups and has its headquarters in the Iraqi capital.

Iraq said Wednesday it had foiled a plot by Iranian agents to kill or kidnap U.N. officials. It said five of the alleged agents had been put on Baghdad Television and confessed.

INA said the purpose of the attempts was to "drive a wedge between Iraq and the United Nations."

There have been no reports of kidnappings, but a U.N. guard was shot to death in northern Iraq and there have been several other shootings and incidents of harassment of U.N. personnel based there. They are involved in humanitarian relief programme for the Kurdish population.

The Kurds blamed the attacks on the Iraqi government, which denied responsibility and accused Kurdish guerrillas.

Iraq, at war with Iraq from 1980 to 1988, remained neutral in the Gulf war in which a U.S.-led international coalition expelled Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Although diplomatic relations have been restored, there is frequent tension between Tehran and Baghdad, which claims Iran is responsible for a continuing Shiite Muslim insurgency in southern Iraq.

## Yemen's fundamentalists dealt political setback

SANAA (R) — Muslim fundamentalists have accused Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh of setting the country on a secular course by supporting a law aimed at modernising the educational system.

Officials and diplomats said the law, passed by parliament on Tuesday, was a political setback for Yemen's Al Islah Union — an alliance of Saudi-backed conservative tribes and Muslim fundamentalists — only three months before general elections.

It places Islamic theology institutions — Al Islah's main power base — under the Ministry of Education which previously provided them with one billion Yemeni riyals (\$83 million) a year in funds, the officials said.

"We affirm that the president, who is the leader of the majority party... shoulders full responsibility for creating this secular lobby," Al Islah said in a statement published by its newspaper Al Sahwa (Awakening).

"Our people hold him (Mr. Saleh) responsible for passing the law, especially as he had promised the ulemas he would oppose it, thus losing his credibility."

Mr. Saleh is also leader of Yemen's main political party, the General People's Congress, which shares power with the Aden-based Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) that ruled South Yemen before its merger with the North in May 1990.

YSP officials have accused Al Islah of using part of the funds for political purposes and say Islam will still be taught at all schools under the new law.

Al Islah, which is seeking power in the November elections, has opposed the merger of North and South Yemen, saying the constitution was not entirely based on Islam.

It has tried unsuccessfully to kill the education law, describing it as a "tool to destroy all educational aspects and wipe out the Islamic and Arabic character of education in Yemen."

**JORDAN TELEVISION**  
Tel: 7711119

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
17:30 Michael Valliant  
17:50 Des Chiffres et des lettres  
18:10 La Chance Aux Chansons  
19:00 News French  
19:15 Magazine E-M6  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Wings  
21:10 Doc: "Profit from Police"  
22:30 News in English  
22:30 Midnight Caller

**PRAYER TIMES**  
06:51 Fajr  
07:53 (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
12:40 Asr  
16:19 Maghreb  
19:25 Isha  
20:49 Isha

**CHURCHES**  
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switach Tel. 510740  
Assassins of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Sade Church Tel. 661757

Terzian Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 77541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 62543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 683236  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675491

**WEATHER**  
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be relatively hot and windy with no southerly gale, in Amman, which will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman 21 / 34  
Aqaba 26 / 40  
Djaza 19 / 34  
Jordan Valley 21 / 39  
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 40, Humidity readings:

**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR**

Autumn 33 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**  
**NIGHT DUTY**  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Salah Al Usoud 649028  
Dr. Amr Al Mansour 602507  
Dr. Hama Al Mansour 748364  
Dr. Riza Abu Zaid 694205  
Firm pharmacy 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy 778336  
Al Amana pharmacy 637005  
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy 656730  
Yasoub pharmacy 644945  
Shmeizani pharmacy 637460

IBRD:  
Dr. Badwa Al Saad 773877  
Al Shana pharmacy 773825

ZARQA:  
Dr. Samir Al Lawzi 985001  
Khalil pharmacy 985417

**EMERGENCIES**  
Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate 630441  
Civil Defence Emergency 637111  
Recease Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 691228  
Blood Bank 775121  
Traffic Police 694390  
Public Security Department 636321  
Police Complaints 605800  
Police Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage 697467  
Complaints 697467  
Amman Municipality 697467  
Complaints 697467  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone 63104  
Reception 63104  
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 771331  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 694100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 615615  
Electric Power 636381  
Company 636381  
RJ Flight Information 06-53200

**HOSPITALS**  
Qasab Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

**AMMAN:**  
Hassan Medical Centre 812613/22  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amm. 642816  
Akhef Maternity, J. Amm. 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Maternity, J. Amm. 636141  
Palestine, Shmeizani 641714  
Shmeizani Hospital 699131  
University Hospital 842945  
Al-Munir Hospital 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdal 666127/37  
Al-Ah, Abdal 666146  
Italian, Al-Mahmoud 771013  
Al-Badri, J. Adrafish 775111/26  
Army, Marza 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 60224020  
Amal Hospital 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560  
Ru Sim Hospital (09)987322  
Al Hana Modern Hospital (09)989990

**REMOVAL:**  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275535  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275  
Al Al Nafsa Hospital (02)247100  
Princess Haya Hospital (03)514111

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**  
**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-6, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS**  
**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**  
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)  
10:30 London (RJ)  
10:45 Athens (RJ)  
11:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
11:30 Damascus (RJ)  
11:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
12:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
12:30 Athens (RJ)  
12:45 Cairo (RJ)  
13:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
13:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)  
13:45 London (RJ)  
14:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
14:30 Athens, Istanbul (RJ)  
14:45 Athens (RJ)

**DEPARTURES**  
**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**  
08:00 Madrid (RJ)  
08:30 Brussels (RJ)  
08:45 Athens (RJ)  
09:15 New Delhi (RJ)  
09:30 Damascus (RJ)  
09:45 Athens (RJ)  
10:00 Athens (RJ)  
10:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
10:45 Rome (RJ)  
11:00 Vienna (RJ)  
11:15 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)  
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:45 Athens (RJ)  
12:00 Cairo (RJ)  
12:30 Riyadh (RJ)  
12:45 Jeddah (RJ)  
13:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
13:30 Athens (RJ)  
13:45 Bangkok (RJ)  
14:00 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**  
10:00 Beirut, Rome (AZ)  
10:30 Doha, Bahrain (GF)  
10:45 Moscow (SU)  
11:00 Larnaca (CY)  
11:30 Cairo (MS)

**MARKET PRICES**  
Upper/lower price in file per kg.  
Apple (red) 500 / 300  
Banana 500 / 430  
Banana (Mekamek) 350 / 300  
Beet 400 / 300  
Cabbage 90 / 50  
Carrot 250 / 200  
Cauliflower 240 / 180  
Cauliflower (large) 120 / 80  
Cucumber (small) 230 / 180  
Eggplant 90 / 50  
Garlic 550 / 450  
Lemon 600 / 500  
Marrow (large) 150 / 100  
Marrow (small) 130 / 90  
Onion (dry) 320 / 160  
Onion (green) 150 / 100  
Peas 600 / 500  
Pumpkin 600 / 300  
Pepper (red) 220 / 160  
Pepper (green) 150 / 100  
Potato 180 / 120  
Sweet Melon 180 / 120  
Tomato 60 / 30  
Watermelon 60 / 30



## Voters urged to follow rules

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — District Governors in constituencies where the Aug. 18 by-elections are to take place urged local voters on Saturday to strictly follow voting procedures to ensure their participation.

Voters in the fourth and sixth constituencies are casting ballots to elect two members of Parliament to fill seats vacated by the death of Minwer Al Hadid (fourth district) and Ahmad Al Azzideh (sixth district).

All registered voters must have identification such as the family book, a passport or a valid driving licence to vote, said a joint statement by Maseh Tarawneh, Madaba district governor in charge of the sixth constituency and Hashem Al Waked in charge of the fourth district.

By last Friday, 53 per cent of fourth constituency voters and 76 per cent of the sixth constituency voters had picked up their voting cards for the election.

Officials said that Aug. 10 was the deadline for the voters to receive the cards enabling them to participate in the coming by-elections.

Officials said that more than 70,000 voters are eligible to cast ballots in the two districts, meanwhile, security arrangements are underway to ensure safe and free elections in the two constituencies.

Amman Governor Issa Omari met with the heads of the central committee in charge of the elections and the directors of police departments in Amman and the badi district to review the essential security arrangements.

The Ministry of Interior has said that voters in the fourth constituency will cast ballots at 59 centres supervised by 75 small committees. Those in the sixth can vote at 30 centres supervised by 33 committees.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### 100 new buses for Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Transport Corporation is finalising preparations to purchase 100 new buses to operate on its routes in Amman following the increase in the city's population, Arabic Daily Press reported Saturday. The corporation has agreed with a Jordanian bus manufacturing company, Alba House, to supply it with the 100 buses of which each will have an 88-passenger capacity.

### Samra receives Egyptian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Culture Minister Mahmoud Al Samra received Saturday the Egyptian ambassador to Jordan on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty. Mr. Samra also received Beirut Arab University President Mahmoud Abdul Rahim and discussed with him scopes of cooperation between the university and Jordanian universities.

### Handicapped receive help

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Council for the Handicapped Affairs held a meeting Saturday at the Ministry of Social Affairs and reviewed services provided to the handicapped in the Kingdom. The meeting which was chaired by Prince Firas Ben Rad and attended by secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development Mohammad Al Suqour decided to grant special cards and stickers for cars belonging to disabled persons to facilitate their travels and their use of special parking lots.

### IDB grants 66 loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has granted in the second quarter of the current year 66 loans worth JD8,869,000. The loans will be used to finance various industrial and touristic projects around the Kingdom.

### 263 new industrial projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 263 new industrial projects worth JD68,911 million were registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in the second quarter of 1992. Of the total number, 62 projects worth JD17,950 million were in food manufacturing industries, 65 projects worth JD28,455 million in engineering industries, 27 projects worth JD1,598 million in weaving industries and 30 projects worth JD2.59 million were in plastic industries.

## Jordan to participate in trade fairs in Turkey and Taiwan to help boost flagging exports

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in two international trade fairs to open Aug. 26 in Turkey and Taiwan.

The first, which will be held in Izmir, Turkey, will continue for two weeks, while the second in Taiwan, will last for one week.

Jordan will be represented at the two fairs by the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCCO). More than 35 Jordanian firms will be displaying products at the two fairs.

The Kingdom's participation in the two fairs aims to promote Jordanian-Turkish and Jordanian-Taiwanese relations and to find new markets for Jordanian exports to strengthen the economy and ease unemployment.

Following the Gulf crisis, Jordanian exports needed to find new markets after being largely dependent on markets in neighbouring Arab Gulf states.

Jordan Trade Association (JTA) President Samih Darwazah said in earlier statements that Jordan's exports rose significantly in 1992 compared to the previous year. Mr. Darwazah said JTA played a prominent role in tackling export issues and applying scientific techniques to develop new markets with national industrial products.

He said many traditional markets for Jordanian goods were closed in the wake of the Gulf War, causing the national industry to retreat until new markets were found.

He said as JTA was trying hard to find new markets and diversify Jordanian products reaching them, success had been made toward meeting this goal in East European and southeast Asian markets.

The association has already organised a number of exhibits and trade fairs in Indonesia, Moscow, and Sudan to promote the sale of Jordanian products.

In another development, a delegation representing the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) returned to Amman Friday after concluding a two-week visit to Turkey.

The delegation held talks with Turkish officials and was briefed on Turkey's experience in exporting vegetables and fruits to European countries. The delegation also discussed with the officials the prospect of benefiting from Turkey's experience in activating the process of exporting Jordan's agricultural produce to Europe. The delegation comprised officials from AMO as well as representatives of farmers and exporters.



Officials at the opening of the third pan-Arab youth camp

## Arab youths have the future of the region in their hands — Irsheidat

AJLOUN (Petra) — Participants in the third pan-Arab youth camp activities which opened near here Saturday, were urged by youth and government officials to help end the gloomy situation now prevailing in the Arab World and work together for a brighter future.

Arab youths are at the centre of attention as they are the force that can carry on development, utilise science and technology and build bridges of understanding and cooperation within the Arab World, said Minister of Youth Saleh Irsheidat in an address at the opening ceremony.

Arab youths hold the destiny of their nation in the future when they will be the decision makers at the political, economic, developmental, and youth levels, said the minister in his address to the 200 Arab youths gathered with local officials and invited guests at the site of the camp.

The minister said that Arab youths, are no less talented than others in advanced nations and should be offered all facilities to promote their gifts and creative capabilities and skills to serve their countries and the Arab nation.

Maan Bashour, chairman of a

board of trustees of the pan-Arab camp, outlined the main objectives of the event, noting that the youths can transcend the existing relations among Arab states and work for a better future.

Youths from Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Algeria Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Palestine and Lebanon are participating in the event. They will take part in seminars, attend lectures, tour places of interest, meet with officials and conduct recreational activities in the two week camp.

Mr. Bashour said that the organisers of the annual camp said that next year they plan to arrange a major march that would travel across Arab borders, leading a campaign to cancel the need for Arab nationals to have visas.

He said there are also plans to prepare for the coming year's participants to proclaim what will be known as the "Arab Youths Rights".

Several members of the two Houses of Parliament along with local officials and youths from the local community were present at the opening ceremony.

## RJ to fly from Amman to Amsterdam

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Aviation Authorities in the Netherlands and Jordan on Saturday reached an agreement to reorganise transport operations for passengers and goods.

A statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Rene Fenes from the Dutch Civil Aviation Authority and Ahmad Jweiber from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) signed an agreement allowing Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, to make daily flights from Amman to Amsterdam.

RJ will be flying to Amsterdam and then on to New York and perhaps Chicago in the future, according to the terms of the agreement.

The Dutch airline KLM stopped flights to and from Amman during the Gulf War in January 1991 and has been coordinating flights to Amman through Cyprus Airways.

Jordan and the Netherlands signed an air transport agreement in 1961, and in 1990 they signed a memorandum of understanding to organise air travel between Amman and Amsterdam via RJ and KLM aircraft.

## WHAT'S ON

### Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Exploring Science" at the British Council.
- ★ Photography exhibition by Siham Al Mufli at the Phoenix Art and Culture Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian Artist Fayez Al Duweik at Alfa Art Gallery.

### Seminar

- ★ Seminar, in Arabic, on the development of U.S.-Israeli relations following the recent Israeli election at the scientific and cultural centre of Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.

### Al Fuhels Festival

- ★ Concert by Al Fuhels string Trio at Al Fuhels Plaza of Culture — 6 p.m.
- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, on the history of Al Fuhels city at the Plaza of Culture — 7 p.m.
- ★ Concert by the Yarmouk Coral Troupe at Al Fuhels main theatre — 9 p.m.



Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat greets Sudanese envoy Mohammad Khalifeh

## Sudanese envoy arrives to bolster Jordan-Sudan ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Sudanese envoy arrived in Amman Saturday on the first leg of a three-day Arab nation tour to discuss cooperation in a number of fields.

Mohammad Khalifeh, head of the transitional national assembly in Sudan, is accompanied by a group of Sudanese officials on a four-day visit to Jordan. He is carrying a written message to His Majesty King Hussein from Sudanese leader Omar Al Bashir.

Mr. Khalifeh is to hold talks with Jordanian officials aimed at promoting ties between Jordan and Sudan, according to the envoy. He said in an arrival statement that his visit to the Kingdom was part of his tour that will also take him to Syria and Iraq and comes in response to an invitation by the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdul Latif Arabiyat. He said that his talks with Dr. Arabiyat and parliament members aim at bolstering Jordanian-Sudanese cooperation in parliamentary affairs.

Referring to southern Sudan, the envoy said that the situation was reassuring with the recent military successes by the Sudanese Armed forces in its latest drive to quash the rebellion in the region.

The rebellion in southern Sudan first erupted in the mid-fifties and continued to simmer until 1993, despite a 1972 peace agreement.

A massive civil war started in 1984 when renegade army colonel John Garang led the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in a major war against the central government in Khartoum.

Sudanese officials had said that in the past month government forces made a series of successes against the rebels in southern Sudan.

Mr. Khalifeh is the second member of the Sudanese transitional national council to visit Jordan in the past two months. Last month, Hassan Hamdine, the council's general secretary, spoke in Amman at a press conference outlining the situation in the country of 27 million people.

Mr. Khalifeh and his five member delegation were welcomed by Dr. Arabiyat and a number of Lower House deputies.



Youths at the closing of the YMCA-UNRWV camp

## 300 youths give a summer goodbye wave to YMCA camp

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 20th annual youth summer camp co-organised by the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and the United Nations Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) has ended with a graduation ceremony at the Amman Training College (ATC).

A three hundred orphan boys and girls from the Palestinian refugee camps took part in this year's camp.

"The main aim of the camp was for the youth to learn and enjoy their activities in a relaxed atmosphere," assistant director of the YMCA of Jordan, Mr. Issa Nozaki, told the Jordan Times. Participating children under 14 years of age have full day of programmes which include science, music, computer programmes and sports, in addition to visiting various libraries and points of interest in the Kingdom.

A total of 110 leaders, of which 8 are volunteers from Japan, supervised the camp which began on July 25 and ended on Friday. About 25 handicapped children also took part this year. According to Mr. Nozaki there's been a

steady increase in the number of participants since the camp programme began in 1973. From that time orphans from 15 refugee camps in the Kingdom have been actively taking part.

"These camps provide an excellent opportunity for the supervisors to enhance their skills and organise different activities in their respective camps all year long," Mr. Nozaki said, adding that five leaders were sent to the United States and another was sent to Japan to take part in camps and add to their experience.

"The camps are an invaluable chance for the youth of different countries to learn more and understand each other better," he said.

The YMCA is also conducting vocational training courses for the hundreds of thousands of returnees following the Gulf crisis. Fifty of the first course graduates in Feb. 1992. One hundred and ten students are enrolled in the second course to be completed in September.

The courses are being held in cooperation with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) in Ain Al Basha and Al Hashimieh.

## WAJ launches nationwide media campaign to help conserve water

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Water Authority in Jordan (WAJ) has embarked on a nationwide information and media campaign to spread awareness to efficient water use.

The campaign, launched under the slogan "the ideal method of using water," entails broadcasting a number of television and radio documentary programmes, guiding citizens on means of economising water use at home, factories and farms.

WAJ officials said that the campaign entails presenting a four-series play by Jordanian artists tackling sound ways of protecting water resources and rationalising water use.

In addition a 15-series radio programme discussing similar topics will be aired.

The campaign, said these officials, also includes distributing thousands of posters with Koranic verses advising people on

economising water. More than 400,000 leaflets will be distributed to households together with the water bills giving guidance on reducing water consumption.

WAJ Director General Mutaz Al Bilbeisi told the Jordan Times last month that the water crisis in Jordan will assume larger proportions by the year 2000 when the country will have tapped all its available resources without meeting the needs of its growing population.

Depletion of non-renewable underground resources, dramatic increases in population and provision of water supplies to almost 100 per cent of the population will force Jordan to look for non traditional means of obtaining water for various purposes, Mr. Bilbeisi said.

WAJ officials said that school children will be instrumental in

carrying out the public awareness campaign by distributing pamphlets featuring the existing and the expected water situation in the Kingdom. These pamphlets will be discussed at schools and through radio programmes beamed to secondary school students.

In addition, the officials said, lectures will be organised in different areas in cooperation with the Ministry of Education cautioning school students on the need to protect water resources.

WAJ officials said that the Ministry of Awqaf has been requested to support the campaign by guiding mosque preachers towards spreading information about the water situation.

The officials said posters and leaflets are being distributed to various public and private institutions, as well as public places like hotels restaurants and public gardens.

## Amman court suspends doctors charged in fatal malpractice case

By Mohammad Malley  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An Amman court has suspended a number of Jordanian doctors from practicing medicine in the country in an alleged malpractice case which is the first of its kind in Jordan and which has led to a dispute between the Ministry of Health and the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA).

Dr. Aref Bataineh, who worked for 30 years within the medical services of the country before becoming Health Minister last November, told the Jordan Times in an interview that, "as a doctor working within the public sector I witnessed cases of malpractice committed by doctors and could do nothing about it. Now as the Minister of Health I am in a position in which I can and will do something."

The case, which began in December 1991 after the death of a patient under circumstances that have now led to the trial of a number of doctors on charges of malpractice, ended in court last Wednesday.

In July, even before investigation of the case was completed, the doctors involved were suddenly arrested on orders from the public prosecutor leading to an outcry from the JMA. After spending a number of days in detention, the doctors were bailed by the JMA and released.

Dr. Isma Maraga, president of the 8,500-member JMA, says that in principle he is not against investigations or punishment of doctors for negligence. However he is against what he calls the "unfair" procedures that have characterised this particular case.

Dr. Maraga asserts that the accused doctors should not have been placed in detention before the public prosecutor completed his investigations.

"We are not against investigations or sending doctors to court if there is strong evidence of malpractice or negligence on the part of the doctors. On the contrary we believe that that helps in keeping a good standard of medicine in the country," Dr. Maraga told the Jordan Times.

He added however that, "what we are against is that action is taken and punishment inflicted against doctors before they have been tried by a responsible court or by the JMA's own review system."

Dr. Maraga said the public prosecutor, before ever meeting or questioning the doctors on the case, ordered them straight to prison. This is a move that places doctors under the threat of being arrested without warning at any time, according to the JMA president.

Dr. Maraga further objected to the fact that during the investigation a representative from the JMA was not present, despite the fact that such presence is required by law.

Dr. Bataineh agreed that a representative from the JMA should have been present during the investigation but denied that other irregularities took place during the case. The detention of the doctors, Dr. Bataineh said, was necessary until bail was secured to ensure that the doctors would appear before the court.

So why were the doctors not questioned until July? Dr. Bataineh asserts that the government's investigating committee, which was responsible for deciding whether or not to prosecute, had called up many other witnesses from December and not until July was it ready to call the doctors themselves. The government's investigating committee was appointed by the Ministry of Health on orders from the Ministry of Justice and ultimately decided that the case must be referred to court.

Before becoming Health Minister, Dr. Bataineh worked for two years as the Director of Medical Services and from 1980 until 1990 at King Hussein Medical Centre. While telling the Jordan Times that he hoped "the court finds these doctors innocent," he also expressed his belief that as the Minister of Health he had a responsibility to ensure that citizens get proper medical care.

Dr. Bataineh admitted that the JMA has its own system of assuring proper medical care and of punishing doctors who have proven to be negligent. However, he asserted that while the JMA's review system is "good to a certain extent ... should be more strict."

While in the past there have been a number of cases in Jordan where private sector physicians were sued for malpractice and while the JMA had on a few occasions closed down private practices for similar reasons, this was the first case in which doctors working within the public sector had been taken to court for reasons of negligence or malpractice. The case thus sets an important precedent.

It is expected that the court will complete its deliberations and issue its final verdict within the next few months.

Unlike many other countries, Jordan has no system of malpractice insurance and according to Dr. Maraga the JMA is reluctant to work for establishing such insurance at this time since it may encourage unnecessary accusations against doctors and would certainly lead to a dramatic rise in medical fees to cover the insurance costs. However, Dr. Maraga believes that insurance, will soon become a necessity.

## 11-day water harvest meeting to open in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — An 11-day symposium on water collection dams (water harvest) will be held Sunday August 16, at the University of Jordan's Agriculture Faculty. The symposium aims at briefing participants on the concept of water harvest, methods of collecting water for increasing agricultural production in areas where rainfall is low, and training them on how to run the water harvest systems in the field. The symposium is organised by the faculty of agriculture in cooperation with the International Centre for Agricultural research in Dry Areas (ICARDA). Taking part in the symposium will be 13 agricultural engineers from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Oman and Yemen.

## House continues scrutiny of public sector debts

AMMAN (J.T.) — A parliamentary report on Audit Bureau work from 1987 to 1990 and a 1992 draft law on Press Publications will be further scrutinised by the Lower House of Parliament on Sunday.

The Audit Bureau has reported to the parliament financial committee that government departments owed JD531 million and that the Telecommunication Corporation (TTC) and the national airline Royal Jordanian (RJ) together owe another JD117 million, a bill outstanding since 1987.

Deputies speaking at previous sessions debating the bureau's work were unanimous in calling for stricter rules to streamline financial divisions in all government offices. They also demanded penalties for violators of the law.

Twenty-one deputies have spoken so far and Sunday's session is expected to host more deputies' views before parliament recommends how the govern-

ment can solve domestic indebtedness.

Also on Sunday, parliament will tackle articles of the draft law on press and publications. So far, parliament has covered only nine out of 59 articles.

In the last session on Wednesday, the House approved article six after introducing a number of amendments, article seven, eight and nine were approved without any changes.

In the amendment to article six, the House ruled that a journalist's source of information, particularly when the information is connected with state security, will only be revealed before court. The draft law calls for more public freedoms and freedom of the press and allows political parties to publish their own periodicals and papers.

The Lower House scheduled another session Monday to hear a report on the progress of the House's investigation committee.

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in Amman would like to congratulate India and its people and the Indian Embassy in Amman on the 45th anniversary of their Independence Day, wishing them prosperity and continuous progress.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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## Step in stair case

THE LABOUR-led campaign to amend the 1986 Israeli law that forbade any contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the premise that it is a "terrorist" organisation is a step in the right direction to correct a gross mistake in judgement by the former Likud government of Yitzhak Shamir. The continued Israeli pretension that it may negotiate peace with the Palestinian side without the blessing of their effective national institution, the PLO, has to end in order for the Palestinian-Israeli bilateral peace talks to have a chance to register progress and come to fruition. Incumbent Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appears determined to improve the Israeli negotiating posture with the Palestinian side by dealing with the reality of the Palestinian house. The last remaining obstacle for putting the next round of bilateral peace talks in the proper context is to complement this belated Israeli change of heart by a corresponding U.S. return to realism and resuming its suspended dialogue with the PLO. Such a move by Washington in the wake of the expected Israeli rectification of its 1986 law would put the last remaining part of the jigsaw puzzle in place in anticipation of the Washington Aug. 24 round of bilateral talks between Israel and the various Arab parties to the peace process. There is, of course, no guarantee that the Israeli change of position on the PLO would necessarily mean a substantive change in the Israeli conception of peace terms with the Palestinians. There is still a fundamental difference between the two sides on the ultimate shape and content of the peace treaty to be concluded between them. With the Palestinians determined to attain complete independence and sovereignty rights over their territories, the Israeli side, even under the leadership of Rabin, has yet to yield on that substantive point as it seems to cling to the notion that the Palestinians may be permanently denied sovereignty rights over their national soil and accept instead an advanced degree of self-rule. This dividing line between the two parties thus awaits resolution within the framework of the bilateral peace talks. The Palestinian leadership realises now more than ever before that their final objective cannot be achieved in one fell swoop but must be realised in a piecemeal approach with one step at a time till they reach a modus operandi with the Israeli side on the basis of peaceful coexistence and mutual recognition and respect. The existing unique favourable conditions for negotiating just and permanent peace treaties between Israel and the various Arab parties offer historic opportunities for both sides to bring back to the area regional peace and harmony. The Israeli new government is moving in the right direction by contemplating changing the archaic 1986 law. And it needs to follow up on it by taking more positive measures to enhance Palestinian confidence in Israeli intentions.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAI Arabic daily Saturday voiced apprehension over the prospect of American pressure on the Arabs in the coming weeks to force them to succumb to Prime Minister Rabin's plans for the Palestinians and its disarray over Washington's grant of billions of dollars in loan guarantees to Israel. The paper said that the American president is expected to exercise pressure on the Arabs in a bid to appease the Israelis and to win the Jewish votes in the coming presidential elections; with the loan guarantees Israel is bound to be encouraged to adhere to his intransigent position while continuing the process of building settlements and exploiting the new loans. Upon his return home, Mr. Rabin said in a statement that he had achieved the purpose of the visit to the United States, noting that the construction of 11,000 homes for new Jewish immigrants will continue, said the paper. This clearly indicates that Mr. Rabin is now armed with sufficient funds and backing from the United States to implement Zionist plots and reveals that the prime minister and the American president have reached agreement on the means of dealing with the Arabs in the coming session of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, the paper added. It said that the Arab parties should remain vigilant and should adopt a united stand to deal with the U.S.-Israeli alliance if they want to accomplish concrete results. It should be noted, said the paper, that the Arab side has no more concessions to make in the face of any possible pressure from Washington and therefore the Arabs should adhere to their principled stand vis-a-vis the Palestine question and the termination of Israeli occupation of Arab lands. The paper urged Arab leaders to hold an urgent meeting with the purpose of reaching a united policy to deal with the coming events.

A COLUMNIST in Al Rai focused public attention on the plight of a small district within Marka district, in east Amman, whose residents lack the important service of sewerage. Nazih said that Al Wamnat district within Marka is deprived of this vital service despite the fact that the water Authority of Jordan and the municipality have been charging them fees for this service. Homes along a whole street and its neighbouring alleys, together with a government school in that small isolated district, are cut off from the public sewerage, and have to depend on their own means to dispose of their waste, said the writer. The residents have repeatedly tried to have their complaint addressed and have approached one official after another but were unsuccessful, said the writer.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Yes, the Jordanian economy is viable

It is part of the conventional wisdom among Jordanian economists and policy-makers to be pessimistic concerning the outlook of the Jordanian economy and its future. An optimist may sound like a dreamer or a wishful thinker who is not aware of the real situation and the facts surrounding him. The ultimate pessimism is to judge the Jordanian economy as not viable, its growth as unsustainable, its progress as reversible, and its life as bound to always depend on foreign financial aid.

Being pessimistic about the state of affairs of an economy can be defined as seeing things worse than they actually are, and predicting that they will get even worse with the passage of time. Being optimistic can be defined as seeing things better than they actually are, and forecasting further improvements that will just happen with time. Optimism and pessimism are equally wrong and fail to understand the situation and deal with it. Such extreme attitudes can be found even in the U.S. or Japan.

Let us put aside both optimism and pessimism for a moment and search for the realistic indicators, live experiments, objective and impartial testimonies which stem from realistic evaluation not from wishful thinking.

We now have an official document prepared by the experts of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which determined, in facts and figures, that the Jordanian economy can be reformed, its imbalances can be adjusted and its distortions can be removed. The document asserts that the financial deficit in the budget and the trade deficit in the balance

of payments can be covered and that the foreign exchange gap can be closed within seven years, ending 1998.

The credit scenario I am referring to is the seven-years economic adjustment programme, which the above mentioned international institutions took part in formulating, and which proved that Jordan can become financially and economically independent and no longer in need of foreign aid. The policies, targets, and measures specified in the programme are by no means wishful thinking or unrealistic objectives by dreamers or propagandists.

The first comprehensive review of the Jordanian economy's performance, which took place in mid 1992, proved beyond doubt that Jordan outperformed the programme and that the actual results were far better than the expectations and the set targets.

For the first time Jordan has an international document certificate that can and must be shown to Arab and foreign countries alike, and, perhaps in the first place, to our own politicians and analysts. The document concludes that the Jordanian economy is not inherently deficient, will not necessarily remain for ever dependent on external subsidies and that it can stand tall on its own feet, and become self-sufficient by the end of 1998.

Of course the accomplishment of viability and self-sufficiency will not happen simply by waiting for seven years. It will happen only if Jordan adheres to the programme, applies the sound policies specified there, and tackles the identified distortions and

imbalances. We have to continue our wholehearted drive to reduce imports, curb consumption, and economise our public expenditure, while at the same time strive to increase exports, encourage investments, and enhance revenue. The steps required are not that easy, but they are not that harsh either. What we have is a step-by-step programme that falls within our ability and the promises light at the end of the tunnel, which is worth the sacrifices.

What the Jordanian people is currently undertaking in the area of economic reform is as important and crucial, if not more so as the political one we are passing through now in the democratisation process. The two endeavours complement each other. With their success, Jordan will become an Arab model to be followed. Its existence will no more depend on the generosity of the "brothers" or the "friends," it will depend on the efforts of the Jordanians.

In 1971 I wrote an article in Al Dustour newspaper claiming in the very title that "the Jordanian economy is viable" and can be self-sufficient. At that time I could prove it. Unfortunately we went in the opposite direction for 17 years, and our dependency on external aid and borrowing was on the rise. Now, the viability of the Jordanian economy is evidenced by the IMF World Bank document. Furthermore, we will know the path we took towards viability, targeted for 1998, was right when we shall have sustainable growth and development and no longer remain under the mercy of external and unpredictable circumstances.

## Where does Baker departure leave U.S. foreign policy?

By Carol Giacomo  
Reuter



James Baker

WASHINGTON — Democrats are shouting "don't go" as President George Bush calls James Baker back to White House duty, arguing that Mr. Baker's departure as secretary of state will harm U.S. foreign policy at a crucial time.

But senior U.S. officials insist Mr. Baker will continue to wield great influence on foreign as well as domestic policy and the only thing threatened by the move is President Bush's democratic rival, Bill Clinton.

After much speculation, Mr. Bush finally announced that the 62-year-old Baker, his old friend and trusted political sidekick, would move to the White House as chief of staff and senior counselor — a kind of overall major dome of policy and political strategy.

It boosted the spirits of Republicans who have watched Mr. Bush fall nearly 30 points behind Mr. Clinton in public opinion polls. But it rattled the political

opposition and some world leaders, as well as troubling some foreign policy experts.

"America stands at a critical juncture in world affairs," Democratic Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware warned in a speech that anticipated the shift.

"It is bad enough that U.S. foreign policy already lacks a vision. It would be worse still if it were now to lose the skilled management and leadership Secretary Baker provides."

Claiborne Pell, a Rhode Island Democrat and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also protested: "Jim Baker was doing such an excellent job as secretary of state that I believe this move is a mistake and not in the national interest."

Republicans were tickled by these plaudits, which they are expected to use against Democrats in the campaign.

"I'm sure that Secretary Baker is pleased and proud of this new-found respect he's getting from Democrats — and eat your heart out, folks," said White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker take credit for helping lead the world through a revolutionary period in which communism collapsed, the cold war ended, Germany reunited and a U.S.-led coalition defeated Iraq's Saddam Hussein in the Gulf war.

But there is serious unfinished business as Mr. Baker admitted on Thursday in a farewell address to more than 1,000 employees who packed the State Department auditorium.

One major challenge is the Mideast peace talks, which resume on August 24 in Washington and are believed to be on the verge of producing their first substantive results.

This process of face-to-face negotiations between Arabs and Israelis, which many doubted would come to pass, was put together painstakingly by Mr. Baker over nine trips to the region. Some say it only advances when he is directly involved.

A senior U.S. official, speaking anonymously, sought to allay fears on this score, saying Mr. Baker and top aide Dennis Ross — one of four top state aides Baker is taking with him — will now direct Mideast policy from the White House.

"We now have a good negotiating process under way and in the final analysis that's going to achieve results only if the parties want to achieve results," the official told reporters.

However, the fact that we are going to the White House does not mean that we are in any way precluded from being actively in-

involved to the extent that we have time to be or want to be," he added.

Mr. Ross would be involved "very actively" while Mr. Baker would be involved "as the need arises," the senior official said.

But there are other pressing matters as well, such as the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, another in Somalia, the uncertain future of the former Soviet Union and Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

Mr. Baker and his team say he will continue to exert strong influence on these and other foreign policy matters because he will be on the national Security Council, which handles such major issues when they come to the president's for action.

Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who will be acting secretary when Mr. Baker leaves effective August 23, is a respected career foreign service officer who will be a competent caretaker of the basic foreign policy machinery.

The State Department went into a pre-election paralysis several months ago and Mr. Eag-

leburger will not attempt new policy initiatives, which would be inappropriate in this limbo phase, a senior official told Reuters.

Some politicians and experts have accused Mr. Baker of politicising the State Department — which traditionally is supposed to shun partisanship — and there are fears his White House move will politicise foreign policy even more.

State Department historian Evan Duncan said he could not recall another instance when a secretary of state had left his post to head the White House or a campaign.

Mr. Baker, who ran Mr. Bush's 1988 campaign, has long been the epitome of the political operative and drew much of his power and prestige from his relationship with Mr. Bush. This does not change in the move from state to the White House.

Whether Mr. Baker returns to state after the election is an open question. But some are betting that Mr. Baker, who only reluctantly leaves his prestigious state post, will be back.

## China's intellectuals finally get rewarded

By Kathy Wilhelm  
The Associated Press

PEKING — Building a better mousetrap has rarely made anyone rich in China, until now.

After four decades of persecuting and underpaying intellectuals, communist authorities have begun offering big money to those who help the country modernize.

They hope to stem the westward brain drain of tens of thousands of young scientists and scholars lured by bigger paychecks, better facilities, more freedom in research, even longer lives. Official surveys indicate Chinese scholars have worse diets than manual laborers and tend to die younger.

The notion that brainpower is valuable burst upon China this year through the example of Zhu Hai, which has grown rich by learning from the capitalists next door in Hong Kong. The southern boomtown announced that it was giving a local engineer \$200,000, a car and an apartment.

Chi Biyun, the engineer, developed a better method for extracting a clotting agent from animal blood and helped open a factory to produce it.

Official media said it was the largest sum given any intellectual in four decades of communism. Columnists debated whether big rewards showed the right socialist spirit.

Senior leader Deng Xiaoping seemed to provide the answer with a new slogan that "science and technology are the No. 1 productive force," the key to catching up with the West.

Suddenly, dozens of cities and factories were giving rewards to scientists and inventors.

Shunyi county north of Peking gave a car and \$3,700 to a biologist who had spent two decades helping farmers breed better pigs.

Human province in central China presented more than \$92,000 to six scientists who developed a higher-yield strain of wheat.

Shanghai announced plans to pick half a dozen top scientists every two years and pay them more than \$9,000 each for their contributions to society.

Officials said the central government, which began granting \$18 monthly bonuses to a few scholars in 1990, was greatly expanding the programme.

Scientists at the Institute of Botany, whose base pay of \$33 a month is less than most street peddlers make, now get a share of what the institute earns from selling their ideas.

"One person developed a plant strain with a high oil content," said Zhang Xinhai, director of the institute. "We sold the information to a factory for 100,000 yuan (\$18,500). Twenty per cent went to that person."

The institute had not done this before because "people said it would be capitalist," Mr. Zhang said, but "now there's no limit."

Of the tensions among researchers created by new disparities in wealth, he said: "If you think someone else has too much, you can come up with an invention too."

Towns use money to lure big-city scientists who can help them start profitable ventures.

Lugouqiao, a Peking suburb, has promised a car, apartment and 100,000 yuan in cash — an entire career's wages — to anyone whose high-tech idea nets 1.5 million yuan (\$277,000) for the township.

More than 100 scientists have sent proposals, said Xiao Nengquan, general manager of the township conglomerate that owns most shops and factories.

"Society is advanced, so now we let some smart, able people get rich in order to encourage them," said Mr. Xiao, a heavy, rough-speaking man who did not need a college degree to get his important post.

Mr. Xiao's attitude and background reflect a more deeply rooted problem facing China's intellectuals. They want respect and trust, not just money.

Many leading communists come from peasant families and are suspicious of anyone who does not earn a living by physical labour.

Position of authority in factories, even research institutes, usually go not to college graduates or technical experts, but to people with the right "class background." That means parents who were workers, peasants or soldiers.

The policy of sending intellectuals to the countryside to "learn from the masses" supposedly ended in 1976 with Mao Tse-tung's death. But in 1990, the government ordered all college graduates to do just that for two years before taking state jobs.

Mr. Zhang said, however, that the government's new willingness to invest money in intellectuals is a good sign.

"I think some leaders realise that, unless science and technology advance, China will always be backward," he said. "And if science develops, then workers and peasants benefit too."

## Power shifts to the east

By Geoff Raby

TO KNOW the past is to know something of the future. But this is not a simple matter of drawing straight lines from the past to predict the future as the Club of Rome analysts once did.

Nor is it to assert like Marx and other great philosophers of earlier times that history has internal mechanical laws of motion which, once discovered, would reveal the future.

Neither, however, is the past just chaos. Patterns recur over time. And it is these which may tell us something of the forces at work today shaping our future world.

From a very long-run perspective it is evident that world economic leadership and centres of political and military power have moved constantly around the globe. Moreover, periods of leadership have become shorter.

Athenian Greece surpassed Egypt, then Imperial Rome overtook Greece. After the fall of Rome, the Arab World was the centre of scholarship, economic achievement and technological sophistication. It was eclipsed in the 10th century when Song China ushered in a long period of cultural and technological brilliance.

In the 15th century, the global economic ascendancy of Europe began. This shaped the modern world. It began in the Mediterranean — first with the Italian city states, later overtaken by Spain and Portugal.

World economic leadership was then snatched by the tiny United Provinces (principally Holland), which in turn lost it to Britain. By the late 19th century, Britain was sharing economic leadership with Germany and the United States.

While the 20th century has been that of the U.S., in the closing years U.S. economic pre-eminence is under serious challenge from Japan. Significantly, Japan has begun to draw other parts of East Asia into its growth orbit.

Today we stand on the edge of yet another epochal shift in world economic power. In the 21st century, for the first time since Song China, the centre of gravity of the world economy is likely to be in East Asia.

A process which began in Japan may reach its apogee in China, with a population of some 1.5 billion in 50 years. India will have a similar population. If the economic and institutional reforms which have just started in

India proceed, the 21st century may come to be dominated by these Asian mega-societies.

No simple explanation exists for the big shifts in the global economy. But much depends on the interplay between technological and institutional change. Followers have an advantage. Adaptive, flexible followers are drawn along in the slipstream of leaders by adopting their technology and penetrating their markets. At some point, momentum builds and followers may pass.

However, this is not inevitable. False starts occur. The actual outcome depends on whether institutions either accommodate or resist technological and economic change. Flexible institutions — be they trade unions, government bureaucracies, private firms, or the law — will be a key to Australia's future.

Historically, economic growth has both nurtured and sustained political strength and cultural and intellectual attainment. These in turn reinforced economic dynamism.

Economic growth has occurred under many different political systems and has been indifferent to culture and religion. But the flexibility of markets has been crucial for sustained economic growth and will continue to be so.

### Massive investment

Technological change, especially in communications, has drawn the many parts of the world closer. Globalisation has been under way for millennia. Its principal and earliest vehicle was trade. Since the rise in the 16th century of the vast, European, trans-oceanic empires, investment has become a major instrument of globalisation as well.

The demands of empire and more recently the global reach of corporations have led to massive investment in technological change in global communications. The future will see the world shrink ever more quickly.

In the 20th century, the Age of Empire came to an end. With the collapse of empires, multilateral bodies such as the United Nations, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the World Bank were created to provide an institutional framework for a smaller, more closely integrated world.

The creation of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) has been the most recent step. It was also a recognition of the rise

of Pacific economic power. The process of global institution building will continue apace, particularly in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Patterns observed from the past tell us something of the forces shaping the future. But it is not possible to read exactly what the future will be from the past, and even less so from the present.

Societies which have done well for long periods have been able to accommodate change by reacting positively to human creative efforts, the most important of which have been technological and institutional innovations.

Great powers which were overtaken had become resistant to change. Decay was then accelerated by political systems which came to be concerned mainly with redistributing wealth, for example by imposing tariffs, rather than raising productivity to create more wealth.

Australia's decade-long process of micro-economic reform in the 1980s, especially policies taken to internationalise the Australian economy, and the successful attack on inflation have been important steps towards creating Australia's future. So, too, have been the joint efforts of government and the private sector to re-orientate Australia towards Asia.

But to stay in the race, let alone move ahead, the following at least will need to become widely accepted in the community as national goals.

Maximum openness will be necessary to draw on the world's stock of technological, scientific and managerial knowledge. This will include openness to trade and investment as well as people who bring with them expertise. And competition from openness will ensure that scarce resources are used for raising productivity and not diverted into unproductive rent-seeking activities merely to cut the cake differently.

Maximum support, both public and private, will be required for intellectual effort in all fields and at all levels. Elementary education is as important in this process as is advanced research. If pursued vigorously, Australia will become more efficient at both drawing on the world's stock of knowledge and contributing to it.

Maximum effort should be directed at recasting Australia's institutions so that they become responsive to rapid change. Australia's future success will re-

quire change to be at the centre of the country's political and social fabric. Part of this process will require Australia's institutions to become truly international.

Maximum investment will be needed for Australia to become a global economy and to stay abreast of this world-wide, accelerating trend. This will require, among many other things, the very best of international communications — transport, telecommunications, and electronic exchange of information.

### Language and cultural skills

Maximum application will be necessary for the population to have an international outlook. Essential skills, such as foreign languages and close knowledge of other cultures, will be required by many Australians. Australians will need to become as familiar with Asian cultures and languages as the Dutch or Scandinavians are with English and German.

National self-knowledge through knowing their own past will be essential if Australians are to become more international and remain confident and aware of Australia's assets and strengths, especially its liberal democratic traditions and intellectual capacities.

Maximum participation in regional and global institution building is essential to ensure Australia's interests are represented fully. Middle-power coalition building has proved an effective means for Australia to influence international bodies. The skills we have acquired in the process will become an increasingly valuable national resource.

These represent some of the minimum conditions for Australia to create its future next century. The past is littered with examples of societies which did not confront the future but protected themselves from change and became insular. We should take heed of such disasters.

\* Dr. Geoff Raby is head of the East Asia Analytical Unit in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The unit's most recent report was Australia and North-East Asia in the 1990s: Accelerating Change. This article is reprinted from "Insight", Australian foreign affairs and trade magazine.



## Bush sees convention as springboard to reelection

By Gene Gibbons  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President George Bush has gone from being a hero of the Gulf war to political underdog in little more than a year because of the spongy economy, but don't tell him that in his battle for a second term.

Despite his meltdown in the public opinion polls and Democratic challenger Bill Clinton's surging popularity, analysts say the embattled Republican president is less of an underdog in the November 3 election than most people think.

"You want to remember, every time you tend to write off George Bush, he makes the big play," his long-time mentor, former President Richard Nixon, has said.

Independent political analyst Stephen Hess agreed.

"It's still the first inning," he said, using a baseball term for the beginning of a game. "I think it's going to be an extremely close election."

Mr. Bush, an athletic 68-year-old leader known for his fractured syntax and lopsided grin,

regards his party's nominating convention in Houston next week as the launching pad for his political comeback.

He has enlisted one-time chief Nixon speechwriter Raymond Price, a wordsmith renowned for his visionary rhetoric, to help prepare his acceptance speech.

Mr. Bush's too, could use the convention to exercise one of the powers of incumbency — the ever-present ability to explode a political bombshell.

In addition, before or during the four-day meeting, Mr. Bush will announce that Secretary of State James Baker, who has served as trail boss of four previous presidential campaigns, will move to the White House to

supervise the reelection effort, administration sources said.

Then the battle will be joined, and the following 10 weeks will likely bring one of the nastiest U.S. political battles in modern times.

This was foreshadowed by a recent Bush campaign statement that tried to rekindle charges that Mr. Clinton has been unfaithful to his wife, and the Arkansas governor's sharp rejoinder that he probably isn't the only would-be leader whose marriage isn't perfect.

Mr. Bush himself was forced on Tuesday to deny a report of a past affair with an aide. "It is a lie," he said.

"After my being hounded and

pounded for the last nine months ... you're going to see some hard-hitting attacks (on Clinton)," Mr. Bush vowed last week. "I am tired of being slugged by these people."

The Democrats have plenty of issues with which to pound him — chief among them the economy's poor performance.

Although he promised in 1988 to create 30 million new jobs in eight years, Mr. Bush has presided over the most anemic record of economic growth since Herbert Hoover, father of the great depression.

"Marching in place," a new book about Mr. Bush's presidency by Time magazine writers Michael Duffy and Daniel Good-

game, also notes that Mr. Bush not only broke his 1988 promise of "no new taxes," but presided over the biggest four-year increase in total taxes as a percentage of the U.S. gross national product in American history.

Even his widely acclaimed Gulf war leadership has been marred by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's survival in office and intermittent defiance of U.N. ceasefire terms.

Still, Mr. Bush has several significant factors in his favour, including Ross Perot's decision to abandon his independent bid for the presidency.

Although polls so far show Mr. Clinton benefiting from Mr. Perot's decision, some analysts

believe it will someday be viewed as the turning point of Mr. Bush's bid for reelection because it restored a pro-Republican bias in the allocation of electoral votes, the indirect system of selecting a president.

Because of recent voting patterns in the south, the midwest farm belt and Rocky Mountain states, Republicans start with 150 to 200 of the 270 electoral votes needed to win, compared to about 100 for the Democrats.

Regardless, because of Mr. Clinton's current lead, analysts expect a down-and-dirty fight right up to November 3.

Mr. Bush showed his skill at brutal bare-knuckles politics four years ago when he painted

Democrat Michael Dukakis as spineless, unpatriotic liberal who delighted in giving savage criminals weekend furloughs from prison.

He has vowed to avoid "sleaze" in his contest with Clinton, but how well he sticks to that promise will probably depend on how one defines the word.

"I've been telling people 18 months not to count (Bush) or (Richard Ben Cramer, author of a new book on presidential politics titled "What It Takes," to the Boston Globe.

"He's the most ferocious WAS (White Anglo-Saxon) Protestant on the planet. He'll come back with a broken bottle," Mr. Cramer said.

## Tribalism overrides Madaba politics

(Continued from page 1)

"To report that the Brotherhood demands that Christians be removed from the ballot counting committees is aimed at inciting religious strife," read a statement published by the Brotherhood.

The article tried to antagonise the Christians in Madaba against Mr. Azaideh, said the Brotherhood statement underlining the fact that the Brotherhood candidate, Mr. Khreibat, is a member of the same clan as the late deputy's, who was one of the most popular House members.

The Brotherhood version of the demands made by its candidate said they were a request for "a recomposition of the committees in areas with special sensitivities."

This request was widely interpreted to mean the Christian voters in Madaba who have an estimated 3,000 voters.

Mr. Khreibat is not expected to pick up any of the Christian votes, observers say.

The Brotherhood's statement also stressed that Tuesday's stand-off, which occurred when a

convoy of cars carrying Brotherhood supporters headed for a rally in Meih, was tribal not ideological. The statement affirmed that the rally was held and that the speakers included Brotherhood members from both Madaba and other parts of Jordan. It specifically named Karak Deputy Ahmad Kafaween, as one of the speakers.

According to a Bani Hamida version of the story no "non-natives of Madaba spoke at the Brotherhood rally that day."

The Brotherhood also rejected allegations made by Shihaan that their supporters had blacked out election posters of Fawaz Abu Ghanem, who is also in the running for the Madaba seat.

Many political observers in Madaba believe that it is irrelevant who is giving the real version of events. "The issues are not who is telling the truth. The issue is that tribalism is threatening the strongest organised political force in the country," said one seasoned political analyst from Madaba. "Many people in Madaba think what happened was wrong because there should be no 'off-limits' territory for

anyone in Jordan," the analyst said.

According to Bani Hamida members, Mr. Khreibat tried to play with tribal affiliations only one day before the "incident" in Meih took place. "Mr. Khreibat said that the 'Azaidehs' were coming to Meih to hold a rally," said one Bani Hamida member.

The reference to his tribal affiliation rather than to his political group made people in the Bani Hamida district angry because they felt that another tribe was "moving in," according to observers.

According to local analysts, the Brotherhood is expected to get "at least" 1,500 votes from the 8,000 Bani Hamida members.

The Palestinian votes in Madaba, estimated at 3,000, are expected to be split between Mr. Khreibat and Mr. Shakhaneh,

with the majority going to Mr. Khreibat.

Approximately 2,400 Christians expected to vote in Tuesday's elections and a "big majority" is expected to vote in favour of Mr. Abu Ghanem, a former government official, with a small number going to Mr. Shakhaneh.

On the other hand, the Balgawieh vote is expected to be split between Mr. Khreibat and Mr. Abu Ghanem. No Balgawieh votes are expected to go to Mr. Shakhaneh, according to observers.

With a few exceptions the 1,500 Bani Hamida supporters of the Brotherhood will vote on "strictly tribal lines," said one observer.

Some 26,000 voters have picked up their registration cards and that same number of voters is expected to turn out for Tuesday's elections.

## I killed, property damaged

(Continued from page 1)

According to the villagers and other witnesses, the riots erupted when policemen were present in the village, but were unable to control the crowd until reinforcements arrived.

Between 60 and 70 people were said to have been detained.

According to two other sources, Kufor Som, a town of about 7,000 inhabitants, was until Saturday surrounded by police forces, who blocked all entrances to the village "to prevent any more riots."

In a statement issued late Saturday, Mr. Shoul said he was briefed on the incidents and said all those found guilty would be punished. He said all the villagers condemned the violence.

The statement said: "The town of Kufor Som in Bani Kanana district, Irbid

Governorate, was the site of regrettable incidents Friday resulting from a fight between two persons from the same town. The fight took place in the house of one of them in Irbid as a result of a previous feud settled in court. At the fight, shots were fired from a gun carried by one of them and caused his death.

"The other was injured by two shots and was transferred to hospital, where he is undergoing treatment now."

The statement continued that "despite taking the normal tribal practices usually applicable in such cases, including atwa (mediation and immunity), a group of the murdered man's relatives headed for the residences of the father and brothers as well as relatives of the alleged murderer in Kufor Som town where they set fire to 14 houses, cars and shops."

Residents said the situation was calm by late Saturday.

## 'Bilateral talks could be delayed'

(Continued from page 1)

As a result, the analyst said, "Israel will be going to the (next round of) talks with an added confidence and may not be willing to be forthcoming, and this will not be in the Arab interests."

"The issue does not seem to have been given the importance it deserves in the Arab World," the analyst said. "It is a major issue and should not be left neglected."

In his comments carried by the AP, Dr. Shaath said the PLO was waiting for an explanation from the U.S. government. "The U.S. decision to approve loan guarantees is considered a step backward in the U.S. administration's position on the peace process," he said. "We have asked the American side for explanations about the loan guarantees and the conditions they have set concerning settlements."

Dr. Shaath said there was a possibility that the Arab delegates to the peace talks might meet soon with the representatives of the Gulf Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union to coordinate positions ahead of the next bilateral and multilateral peace talks.

According to Mr. Hawatmeh, the first step is to ensure that the American loan guarantees are given in exchange for a total freeze in Israel's settlement construction in the occupied territories.

"We have to remember that Rabin is a military man and he had launched the settlement campaign in the occupied territories," Mr. Hawatmeh told the Jordan Times. "I totally reject his classification of 'political' and 'security' settlements and insist on a total suspension of all Israeli construction in the occupied territories."

According to Mr. Hawatmeh, who follows a hardline policy in Middle East peace-making, if the loan guarantees go ahead without an Israel move to halt all settlement construction, then "the Palestinians should stay away from the peace talks."

Mr. Hawatmeh said the PLO leadership had drawn up a working paper "explicitly stating the Palestinian position and we intend to implement this position at any cost," he did not elaborate.

Senior Palestinian delegates to the peace talks have said that any step into substantial discussions with the Israelis depended on a

total halt to settlement building and respect for the human rights of the Palestinian people.

"Any serious talks with the Israelis depend on Israel meeting these two conditions," said Mr. Hawatmeh. "Until then all talks about self-government and related arrangements amount to nothing."

Mr. Rabin said he expected agreement with the Palestinians by November/December on modalities of Palestinian elections in the occupied territories for an "administrative council" to be held in April or May next year.

But Mr. Hawatmeh rejected that and said unless Israel fulfils the "basic conditions that we put forward nothing is going to go forward."




Senior Palestinian delegates to the peace talks have said that any step into substantial discussions with the Israelis depended on a

## Kabul

(Continued from page 1)

them to meet to negotiate a ceasefire, but a spokesman said there were no results because of the "stiff attitude adopted by both sides."

Fundamentalist Hezb leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has put forward new conditions for a ceasefire, including the withdrawal of Gen. Dostum's militia, his arch rival.

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## Azerbaijan introduces 'manat' to run in parallel with rouble

MOSCOW (R) — The former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan introduced a new currency Saturday, to run in parallel with the rouble, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

All three of the new manat banknotes depict Baku's maiden's tower, the landmark of the Azeri capital. One manat will be worth 100 roubles (about six cents).

TASS quoted a spokesman for the Azeri National Bank saying that Azerbaijan had introduced the manat because of an acute cash shortage in the Transcaucasian state.

The banknotes, which are all the same size, carried identical pictures because Azerbaijan had tried to print the new money quickly. Workers would receive 20 per cent of their pay in manats.

Several former Soviet republics have introduced currencies to run in tandem with the rouble. But only one — the Baltic state of Estonia — has so far abandoned the rouble entirely.

All the republics say tight Russian monetary policies mean they are short of cash to pay wages and salaries.

## Envoy says West overplays Russia's reform ups, downs

WASHINGTON (R) — Russian Ambassador Vladimir Lukin says the West overstates the ups and downs of Russia's economic reforms, and he suggests Moscow might shun the International Monetary Fund (IMF) if it is not more flexible.

In an interview, Mr. Lukin accused the IMF of a "Marxist-Leninist" kind of dogmatic approach to economic reform. He said the world financial organization would also have much to lose if Russia's shift from a command economy to a free-market system failed.

Mr. Lukin, who became Moscow's envoy to Washington last March, spoke at a time when experts have expressed new concerns that President Boris Yeltsin's reformist government is in retreat and its radical economic plan is faltering.

Despite such misgivings, the IMF last week approved its first loan for Russia, a \$1 billion credit that should pave the way for further Western aid for the cash-strapped country.

Mr. Lukin said Russians and the West are guilty of naivete and what he called "overdramatization" of Russia's problems.

Russians idealize what their country was before former president Mikhail Gorbachev unleashed the current era of revolutionary change from communism to democratic capitalism, he said, while the West has underestimated how hard it is for a command economy to switch to its opposite.

Sometimes there is a temptation to measure such changes which are going on now in our country not with historical watches but ... (in terms of) human passions, human expectations, human ambitions and it is erroneous," he said.

New pessimism about Russia "is just as exaggerated as rosy expectations a few months ago were exaggerated" and ignores the fact that other former communist countries, like Poland, are also suffering transition pains, he added.

Mr. Lukin said people should realize there is a very long and difficult road ahead, perhaps requiring a generation or more before Russia makes the transition.

While acknowledging that leaders and public opinion can affect the speed of reform, he said the process is inevitable and still has the full commitment of the Yeltsin government.

As for the IMF, Mr. Lukin complained that that organization has failed to recognize Russia's uniqueness, as a country that is both highly developed in some ways and underdeveloped in others, and treats it as a "purely underdeveloped country."

"I would say it would be a kind of Marxist-Leninist overgeneralization and absolutism," he said of the IMF approach.

He called for greater flexibility from the IMF and said that if it were not forthcoming, "maybe we'll do something without IMF. Of course it would be preferable to do it with them. We understand the high measure of interdependence in this world."

But he said "if IMF will be persistent in their newly formed Marxist-Leninism ... Russia will disappear from this process, a move that would also hurt the IMF because Russia is the most important and most powerful challenge for their strategy."

The world's seven richest countries, known as the G-7, pledged \$24 billion for Russia this year, but much of that was predicated on Moscow agreeing to a reform plan with the IMF.

Analysts said the G-7 — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — decided to give the IMF the lead role in helping Russia modernize its economy in part to avoid being blamed if the reforms failed.

Mr. Lukin made a strong pitch for not sacrificing to the reform effort Russia's science and technology capabilities and the most developed elements of its industrial base.

Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, under mounting criticism from conservative opponents, recently defended his harsh free-market policies and vowed to press ahead with the economic reforms.

"I don't agree the reforms have stalled. I think we've made serious progress in changing the realities of life in this country," Mr. Gaidar said in a television interview.

"I am continuing to carry out my duties and will do so as long as I'm convinced that, despite all this huge resistance, difficulties and pressure, we are moving ahead with reform," he pointed out.

Mr. Gaidar's policies, aimed at replacing communism with a free market system, have sent prices soaring far faster than any increases in wages.

Production has fallen 14 per cent this year and many factories, slow to adapt to a market economy, have been pushed to the brink of bankruptcy.

Powerful opponents including former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev and Arkady Volsky, a leader of the influential Civic Union Coalition, have demanded radical changes in the government economic course.

But Mr. Gaidar said the government could claim credit for stimulating free enterprise and noted with irony that rivals now calling for his resignation had shown little enthusiasm for government office earlier.

He denied suggestions that moves by Russia's central bank to cancel mutual debts between enterprises would lead to wholesale write-offs, a possibility which some economists believe could produce hyperinflation.

He said the bank's initial proposals for cancelling three trillion roubles (\$18.6 billion) of mutual debt had contained some "miscalculations" but were now being corrected.

The proposals, which have not been spelled out in detail, were aimed at severing massive chains of debt which stifled the prospects of healthy companies while enabling inefficient firms to stave off collapse.

The central bank's acting chairman, Viktor Gerashchenko, told the television it planned to print 350 to 400 billion roubles (\$2.17 billion to \$2.48 billion) in 1992 to

issue credits to state enterprises and cover mutual debts.

In an earlier interview, Mr. Gaidar said a \$1 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund, the first tranche of a promised \$24 billion package, would be used primarily to build up Russia's hard currency reserves.

But he made clear that the impetus for reform must come from within, not from foreign donors.

"We have to understand that any form of credit is only a prop for our domestic policy. If our internal policy is irresponsible, these props won't help us," he said.

After the IMF approved the initial loan last week Russia assured the West that it planned to cut spending to meet the demands of creditors and donors.

Mr. Gaidar reinforced the message. "They (the funds) won't be squandered," he said. "I won't allow this while I am in office."

Financial Markets			
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	NEW YORK	NEW YORK	
	Date 14/8/92	Date 15/8/92	
Sterling Pound	1.9815	1.9544	
Deutsche Mark	1.4645	1.4552	
Swiss Franc	1.3610	1.3580	
French Franc	4.9675	4.9375	
Japanese Yen	125.97	126.52	
European Currency Unit	1.3885	1.3898	
* 100 Per Cent			
* 100 Per Cent			
Interbank Interest Rates			
Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.25	3.31	3.37
Sterling Pound	9.87	10.18	10.12
Deutsche Mark	9.75	9.75	9.75
Swiss Franc	8.4	8.31	8.43
French Franc	10.06	10.31	10.31
Japanese Yen	4.06	5.87	3.52
European Currency Unit			
* 100 Per Cent			
* 100 Per Cent			
Precious Metals			
Currency	1 Ounce	1 Ounce	1 Ounce
Gold	356.15	6.55	5.875
Silver			0.090
* 100 Per Cent			
* 100 Per Cent			
Other Currencies			
Currency	100	100	100
U.S. Dollar	0.669	0.671	
Sterling Pound	1.2836	1.2900	
Deutsche Mark	0.4562	0.4585	
Swiss Franc	0.5065	0.5088	
French Franc	0.1345	0.1352	
Japanese Yen	0.5306	0.5339	
Dutch Guilder	0.4047	0.4067	
Swedish Krona	0.1254	0.1260	
Italian Lira	0.0600	0.0603	
Belgian Franc	0.2213	0.2224	
* 100 Per Cent			
* 100 Per Cent			
CAN Indices for Amman Financial Market			
Index	12/8/92	Close	5/8/92
All-Share	141.69		140.59
Banking Sector	103.96		102.57
Insurance Sector	151.90		150.57
Industry Sector	193.95		192.89
Services Sector	182.89		184.70
* 100 Per Cent			
* 100 Per Cent			

CAIRO (R) — Egypt is studying plans to issue long-term treasury bills to be traded on its stock exchange to help fight inflation and a liquidity surplus, Finance Minister Mohammad Al Razaz said in remarks published Saturday.

He told the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram the bills would carry interest rates similar to those offered by banks but would have an edge through trading at the stock exchange.

Egypt currently has treasury bills of up to 365 days, introduced at various times since 1991 as part of economic reforms agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

With interest rates ranging between 17 and 18 per cent at present, they have partly helped the government finance a budget deficit and offered reasonable investment opportunities for cash holders.

Many investors have also changed their foreign currency savings into Egyptian pounds to take advantage of the higher interest rates, boosting the country's foreign exchange holdings.

"The new bills are not an end in themselves or a constant policy. They aim to absorb inflation and a liquidity surplus in the current stage," Al-Ahram quoted him as saying.

"They will be restricted once these targets are reached. The state budget will bear the burden of issuing them for the sake of a national goal," he added.

Egypt has been going ahead of schedule with monetary and fiscal reforms but the IMF and World Bank have been seeking faster steps by the government to privatize the huge public sector and draw private investments into the economy.

## Egypt considers issuing long-term treasury bills

CAIRO (R) — Egypt is studying plans to issue long-term treasury bills to be traded on its stock exchange to help fight inflation and a liquidity surplus, Finance Minister Mohammad Al Razaz said in remarks published Saturday.

## Lufthansa losses widen

FRANKFURT (R) — State-controlled German airline Lufthansa has said its losses had widened in the first half of 1992 as economic downturn, a weak dollar and high domestic costs clipped its performance.

It reported a group pre-tax first-half loss of 542 million marks (\$368.6 million) after posting a loss of 331 million marks (\$225.1 million) in the first six months of 1991.

But Deutsche Lufthansa A.G. said it hoped to improve earnings by cost-cutting measures.

"Due to the worrying situation, the management board is working on 'programme 93' which will ensure the airline's long-term competitiveness and continue (cost-cutting) measures already being implemented," it said in a statement.

It added the airline's supervisory board would consider the new programme on Aug. 31.

Lufthansa blamed general economic weakness, exorbitant German airport fees and insurance premiums, and global air traffic over-capacity for its weak performance.

The price war on North Atlantic routes was devastating for all those affected, while the dollar's weakness had meant losses worth hundreds of millions of marks for the airline.

Lufthansa said the increased losses came despite a 9.1 per cent rise in group turnover to 7.2 billion marks (\$4.9 billion) in the first half and higher passenger numbers.

Its passenger load factor rose to 60.1 per cent from 58.8 per cent in the same 1991 period. The number of seats available rose by 18.8 per cent but demand rose by 20.4 per cent, it added. It gave no precise details.

Ticket sales had risen 18.8 per cent from a year earlier, taking the number of passengers carried to 13.4 million.

The first half deficit follows a 1991 net loss of 426 million marks (\$289.7 million) and company forecasts of more losses this year.

But analysts have expressed cautious optimism that the airline will return to profitability in 1993 as the stringent cost-cutting programme takes effect. Lufthansa plans to cut some 1,000 jobs this year and as many as 3,600 in 1993.

It said personnel costs — some of the highest in the industry — were about 30 per cent above those of its principal competitor, British Airways PLC.

But it plans to drop first-class service in Europe in September, which it says should bring in additional revenues of up to 600 million marks (\$408 million), and to convert its domestic flight operations into a separate division, Lufthansa Express, by November.

most optimistic expectations," said Commerce Secretary Barbara Hackman Franklin. She described the travel downturn during the conflict as a "hitting on the chin."

Ms. Hackman projected a \$21 billion surplus for 1992 despite a temporary drop in the flow of Japanese and other Asian visitors to Los Angeles attributed to rioting and earthquakes in southern California earlier this year.

Japan and Canada led the list of foreign spenders in the United States, contributing 91 per cent of the U.S. travel industry surplus and 51 per cent of its foreign receipts, the department said.

Japanese visitors left \$9.8 billion in the United States last year, more than Americans spent visiting Japan. The figures included passenger fares spent on the two countries' carriers.

Canadian visitors increased 10 per cent from 1990 to 1991, followed by New York and Florida, each with 4.3 million. Other popular destinations were Hawaii, Nevada and Washington, D.C.

## U.S. reports record tourism

WASHINGTON (AP) — Foreigners spent \$16.8 billion more on travel and tourism in the United States than Americans spent on foreign travel, the Commerce Department has reported.

Japanese visitors were the biggest spenders, it said, 3.3 billion of them contributing \$12.6 billion — \$3.818 per visitor.

"The rebound in international travel to the United States after the Gulf war has exceeded the

most optimistic expectations," said Commerce Secretary Barbara Hackman Franklin. She described the travel downturn during the conflict as a "hitting on the chin."

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## Romanian debts total \$2.3 billion

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania, which was in the black when communist rule collapsed two-and-a-half years ago, is now in the red with debts totalling \$2.3 billion, according to a government report.

Negotiations are also under way for loans totalling a further \$2.94 billion.

Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who was executed in the 1989 revolution, had repaid all of Romania's debts, through a programme of forced exports, by the time of his downfall.

But the post-communist government, in need of cash to build a market economy after four decades of central planning, has been borrowing from international lenders to prop up the balance of payments.

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**The Naked Gun 2½**

**The Small of Fear**

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

**The Fox and the Hound**

Special shows for children at 11 a.m. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

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**AHLAN THEATRE**

**Nabil and Hisham**

(former Rainbow cinema)

**"Ahlam New World and Local Orders"**

Show starts at 9 p.m.

Cinema

Tel: 675571

**Nabil Al Mashini Theatre**

at 6:00 p.m. daily

**Shahrazad and Sinbad play**

A quiet comedy for all members of the family (adults and kids). Prior reservation is needed.

The next show is:

**(Taa' Waqaymeh)**

Cinema

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# U.N. relief convoy heads for besieged Bosnian town

**SARAJEVO (R)** — A U.N. relief convoy heading for the besieged eastern Bosnian town of Gorazde was halted briefly Saturday by shooting, the U.N. High Commission for Refugees said.

The convoy of eight trucks, carrying 46 tonnes of food from Sarajevo for 70,000 people trapped by a Serbian siege, was the first test of a promise by rebel Serb leader Radovan Karadzic that relief efforts would not be impeded in the former Yugoslav republic.

UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond said the shooting occurred when the trucks and their escort of armed personnel carriers reached Rogatica, 20 kilometres north of the Gorazde.

"Some shooting broke out — it wasn't clear what the target was — but it appears there was no damage," Mr. Redmond said.

Larry Hollingsworth, a Parti UNHCR employee with the convoy, said Bosnian and Serb officials gave it an even chance of reaching Gorazde.

"It's a bit chilling but we're going to go for it," he added.

"We're going to give it a really good try."

An attempt by the U.N. to get into Gorazde with supplies last month was abandoned when an armoured vehicle hit a landmine and the convoy was pinned down by crossfire for 24 hours before being rescued.

Gorazde is the last important town in eastern Bosnia still held by Muslims. It has been besieged since April by Serb forces fighting Bosnian independence.

Artillery and mortar attacks blasted the outskirts of Sarajevo overnight, hours after relief workers said they would evacuate 800 more women and children from the Bosnian capital.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency quoted military sources as saying four civilians were killed and five wounded in overnight shelling of Nevesinje near the southern town of Mostar.

Officials of the Children's Embassy, a Sarajevo relief agency, announced Friday evening they had secured agreement between warring ethnic groups to evacuate 800 mostly Serb women and children from the city Tuesday.

"We have approval from Serbs, Muslims and Croats," said Children's Embassy Director Dusko Tomic. "All we need now is permission from the minister of defence."

The Children's Embassy has helped arrange the evacuation of about 27,000 people from the war-ravaged Bosnian capital in four months of fighting.

Boycotts by Serbian and Bosnian leaders clouded EC-brokered peace talks in Brussels.

But officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said a total of 1,131 prisoners were freed by Croatia and Yugoslavia, which now comprises only Serbia and Montenegro.

In Brussels yet another attempt by the EC to broker a truce foundered after several of the main protagonists in the conflict refused to attend.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, a Muslim, attended a plenary meeting but forced the cancellation of planned weekend talks by pulling out because of what he called Serb aggression.

"They have to choose — negotiate or wage war. They cannot do both," he said.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, accused by the West of inciting Serb rebels in former Yugoslav republics, turned down an invitation to the talks, as did his Montenegrin colleague Momir Bulatovic.

EC peace negotiator Lord Carrington said he was sure Mr. Milosevic would take more seriously a broader international conference in London between Aug. 26 and 28 involving the United Nations Security Council permanent members, the EC and the Yugoslav factions.

"I don't think he'd want to be left out," he said.

Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic went to Brussels but was not allowed to participate in the conference because the West does not recognise his government.

He told the newspaper Politika on his return to Belgrade that the conference was worthless without Yugoslavia "because half of those who will be subject of the talks will not be there."

He added: "The most important conditions is that it should be a peace conference, not a trial of Serbia and Yugoslavia."

Meanwhile, the leader of Bosnia's rebel Serbs said Saturday he could guarantee safe passage for humanitarian aid convoys from Belgrade to Sarajevo, but warned of possible attacks on another land route.

"We can guarantee a permanent convoy from Belgrade to Sarajevo... this is all pro-Serbian territory, no checkpoints," Radovan Karadzic told reporters.

However, he said the risk of shelling meant security could be guaranteed for only the last 20 miles (30 km) into Bosnia's besieged capital on the supply route from Croatia's Adriatic Port of Split.

Mr. Karadzic said it was risky to have sections of a supply route controlled by different factions because one side could shell a convoy once it had left its territory in order to discredit those in charge of security in the area of attack.

## Rao: Kashmir is not negotiable

**NEW DELHI (R)** — India's Prime Minister Narasimha Rao said Saturday that the disputed territory of Kashmir was an integral part of the country and "no force on earth can alienate it from us."

As Mr. Rao addressed the nation, militants fired two rockets at a heavily guarded stadium in Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-ruled Kashmir, where government officials had gathered to celebrate India's Independence Day.

One of the rockets exploded in the air and the other landed on a private home near the stadium, injuring two small boys, police in Srinagar said.

Residents were temporarily evicted from their homes near the stadium and paramilitary forces moved in as a security measure, police said.

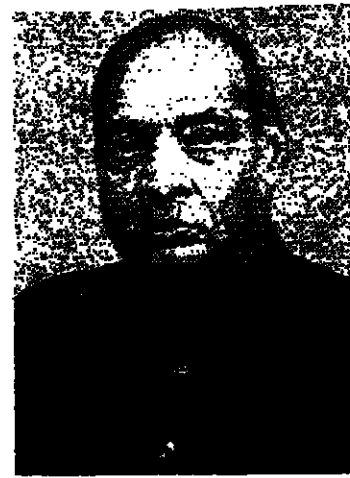
Srinagar's streets were deserted except for army vehicles and official cars after militants called for a general strike in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Militant groups boldly paraded through the streets of Srinagar with their weapons Friday to celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day. Some groups are fighting for an independent Kashmir, others want to merge with neighbouring Pakistan.

Speaking from the ramparts of Delhi's Red Fort, Mr. Rao said Islamabad continued to support separatists in Kashmir and in the neighbouring state of Punjab, despite his four rounds of talks with Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif over the past year.

Mr. Rao said he would talk again with Mr. Sharif at the non-aligned movement summit in Jakarta next month, but made it clear there would be no compromise on the issue.

"This is the bottom line. No force on Earth can alienate it from us," Pakistan denies frequent Indi-



Narasimha Rao

an charges that it arms and trains anti-India militants. Pakistan controls one-third of the former princely state and India the remainder.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since both became independent of Britain in 1947, two of them over Kashmir.

Nearly 8,000 people have been killed in the scenic Himalayan valley since simmering resentment exploded into revolt in January 1990.

Eighteen militants were killed in various clashes with Indian security forces in the Kashmir Valley Friday, police reports said.

Another 16 people have been killed since Friday in Punjab, where Sikh militants are fighting for a homeland called Khalistan, or Land of the Pure. Some 20,000 people have died in that decade-old insurgency.

Mr. Rao is also trying to defuse deep-rooted religious and caste conflicts in the multilingual country of 850 million people.

Fundamentalist Hindus last month started building a grandiose temple to the revered god, Lord Rama, on the site of an ancient mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya.

The temple campaign has ignited Hindu-Muslim riots that have killed more than 2,000 people over the past three years.

Taking the consensual approach that has marked his first year in office, Mr. Rao received the loudest applause of his 45-minute speech when he promised to build the temple to Rama on the site without demolishing the mosque.

Meanwhile, a Pakistani minister said Friday his government would not let Pakistani fundamentalists launch a military campaign in support of Muslims living under Indian rule in Kashmir.

Mehtab Ahmad Khan, minister for Kashmir and northern areas, said Pakistan was committed to resolving the Kashmir dispute through a U.N. resolution passed in 1947 and again in 1948.

The Pakistani fundamentalist group Jamaat-i-Islami said Thursday it was joining what it called a practical jihad (holy war) to end Indian rule in the state and had 70,000 volunteers ready to fight.

Abdul Rashid Tarabi, the head of the group, told a news conference in Islamabad the Pakistani government should not interfere in the group's decision to fight. But Ahmad Khan, in Abu Dhabi on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates, told Reuters in an interview:

"Pakistan is not in favour of any military activity for this purpose. We will never allow... any such activities."

"We are committed under U.N. resolutions not to resort to military activities. We will not allow (it)."

But asked if the government would use troops to prevent Jamaat-i-Islami waging war against Indian rule, Ahmad Khan said: "No, I don't think so... Pakistan is not in favour of any military action. We want a peaceful end."

## COLUMN 8

### Very rare dinosaur skeleton pulled out of ground

**CANON CITY, Colorado (R)** — Army pilots used a helicopter Friday to pull the intact skeleton of a 140 million year old dinosaur out of the ground, unearthing what scientists called one of the best-preserved dinosaurs found. Technicians attached a 150-foot (45-metre) cable and rigging to the plaster-encased skeleton and raised it out of the Colorado earth where scientists found it a month ago, carrying it nearly a mile (1.6 km) and setting it down in a flatbed truck. "This is a very, very rare skeleton because the bones are still joined together," said Dan Grenard, project manager of the Garden Park Fossil Area. The skeleton is of a Stegosaurus, a plant-eating dinosaur bearing two rows of bony plates along its backbone and four large spikes extending up from the end of its tail. "It is fully articulated, and may be the best skeleton ever found. The skull is complete and intact, and the four spikes are still joined to the tail," said Mr. Grenard. Teams of scientists encased the skeleton in plaster while it was still in the ground near this town at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. Archaeologists from the Denver Museum of Natural History were looking for prehistoric turtles when they found the skeleton.

### 6 rescued from sinking boat

**CAPE MAY, New Jersey (AP)** — Six men were rescued after a boat identified by the U.S. Coast Guard as the world's second-largest private sport fishing vessel sank about 100 miles (160 kms) off the coast. Ken Scherf, 39, of Sydney, Australia, and Hrair Hovhannian, a leader of the Armenian community in America and the owner of the vessel, were among those rescued. The men drifted at sea in a life raft for four hours before two Coast Guard helicopters noticed a beacon the men were flashing about 4:30 a.m. The men were not seriously injured and refused medical treatment, said Petty Officer Jim Kruse. A crew member noticed water pouring into the "Lady Anna" shortly after midnight, Officer Kruse said. "We don't know what happened," Officer Kruse said. "They never had time to find out. It sank within 5 minutes."

### Bellyaching thief faces scalpel

**LISBON (R)** — A surgeon's knife awaits a Portuguese thief after three days of laxatives failed to shift a stolen gold chain from his stomach, the newspaper Publico reported. Police caught the 28-year-old man in the act of snatching the necklace from an old lady in Lisbon but were not quick enough to stop him swallowing the evidence. But there was no hiding place once hospital X-rays were taken. Doctors say there is now no alternative but to open up his belly.

### Japan population hits 123 million

**TOKYO (R)** — Japan's population was 123.59 million at the end of March, up 0.35 per cent from a year earlier, the Home Affairs Ministry said. The figures show that more people are leaving rural areas and moving to big cities. The combined population of Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya, the biggest urban regions, grew 0.54 per cent to 60.15 million. The number of births in the 1991/92 year was 1.22 million, up 11,318 from a year before and the first increase since 1979.

### Police recover Polish woman's missing thousands

**BANGKOK (R)** — Thai police have arrested a taxi driver who allegedly drove away with a bag containing \$150,000 while its owner was unloading her luggage at a Bangkok hotel. Police said they had recovered \$135,000 of the money belonging to Polish businesswoman, Jolanta Zmyslowska, the Bangkok Post reported. Ms. Zmyslowska told police she had taken the taxi from Bangkok's Don Muang Airport on June 27 and was unloading her luggage at a central city hotel when the car drove away with her bag. Police said the driver, Boontiang Sukthongthair, fled with the money to a southern village. He had confessed to spending some of it on house-building materials and had given some to a friend, Koy Ngamdee. Both men were charged with theft.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Honecker may not go on trial

**HAMBURG (AP)** — Former east German leader Erich Honecker, jailed in Berlin on manslaughter charges, has liver cancer and probably will never stand trial, a major magazine said Saturday. The Hamburg-based Spiegel magazine said Mr. Honecker's lawyers Friday applied to Berlin justice officials to have the case against him dropped because of illness. "The magazine said Mr. Honecker's condition is 'incurable,' and will either ruin his liver or spread to other organs. 'His life expectancy is less than the estimated minimum of two years needed for a trial,' Spiegel said, citing results of medical tests carried out at Berlin's Moabit Prison Hospital where Mr. Honecker is being held. Excerpts of the report that were provided early to other news media are to appear in Spiegel's Monday editions. Mr. Honecker, who will be 80 on Aug. 25, is charged with 49 counts of manslaughter for allegedly issuing shoot-to-kill orders stop east Germans from fleeing to the west.

### U.S. offers \$2 m reward for Escobar

**BOGOTA, Colombia (R)** — The United States has said it would pay a reward of up to \$2 million for information leading to the arrest of Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar, bringing the price on Mr. Escobar's head to \$3.4 million. Colombian security forces, with U.S. support, have launched a big manhunt to arrest the feared Medellín cocaine cartel boss who escaped from a luxury jail last month with nine of his trusted lieutenants. Mr. Escobar is one of the world's most dangerous criminals, accused of leading a bloody war on the Colombian state in 1989 and 1990. "The U.S. State Department, with the support and cooperation of the U.S. Justice Department, announced that people who supply information leading to the arrest of Pablo Escobar can receive rewards of up to \$2 million," a statement issued by the U.S. embassy in Bogota said. The U.S. offer is additional to a Colombian government offer earlier this week to pay \$1.4 million for information leading to Escobar's arrest. The offer is backed by wanted posters in newspapers and a television campaign.

### Nobel prizes to be announced in October

**STOCKHOLM (R)** — The winner of this year's Nobel Peace prize will be announced in Oslo Friday, Oct. 16, the Swedish Academy said. The Stockholm-based Nobel Prize Foundation said the award has also fixed the dates for the medicine or physiology prize on Monday, Oct. 12, economics on Oct. 13, and the physics and chemistry prizes on Oct. 14. The agency said. Nobel Foundation said. "If we're not available for comment on the report, sorry," he said.

### Battle students in Seoul

**PARIS (R)** — Thirty youths armed with baseball bats clashed with police in a suburb west of Paris after the teenage son of an Algerian immigrant was shot dead, police said. Violence erupted following a controversial pro-unification rally. Police pumped out choking gas, authorities per gas and were pelted with fire bombs and rocks. Regulations dating for 20,000 students and dissidents from all over the world in force for the rally at the Seoul National University (SNU) were carried out a threat to take to the streets. Student union leaders cancelled plans to march on the border of Panmunjom to meet up with North Korean students. Seoul government says the rallies, marking the 47th anniversary of liberation from Japanese rule, are part of a North Korean plot to destabilise the South. It detained scores of student leaders last week. On Friday night, students tricked the police into concentrating their force on a different campus before firebombing and over-running an unprotected police sub-station near the Seoul National University. Clashes broke out when police finally arrived at the university.

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### Watergate judge dies at 88

**WASHINGTON (R)** — Judge John J. Sirica, a central figure in the Watergate scandal of the 1970s that brought down President Richard Nixon, died Friday, a Washington hospital spokesman said. He was 88. Judge Sirica, an unknown federal judge at the start of the Nixon administration, sentenced Watergate defendants to jail and ordered Mr. Nixon to release his sensational White House writing tapes. Judge Sirica had experienced heart trouble in his later years and underwent triple bypass surgery in 1984. He died of cardiac arrest in Georgetown University Hospital. He presided over the 1973 trial of the men accused of breaking into Democratic Party Headquarters during the 1972 presidential election campaign. The burglars were financed by Mr. Nixon's re-election committee.

## 7 CIS states sign peacekeeping accord

**MOSCOW (R)** — Seven CIS members have signed an accord to create peacekeeping forces to send to trouble spots in the former Soviet Union, ITAR-TASS News Agency said Friday.

It said the agreement, first discussed at a Commonwealth summit in July, had now been signed by the presidents of Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Armenia and Moldova.

Each signatory would create and train special military or police units and groups of military observers which could be sent to carry out peacekeeping operations.

Since the break-up of the Soviet Union last September, ethnic conflicts have flared with fresh violence from Moldova on the Romanian border to the volatile Transcaucasus and the Central Asian state of Tajikistan.

But the initial success of recent peacekeeping missions in Moldova and the Georgian region of South Ossetia has raised hopes that a joint CIS force could help end fighting elsewhere.

ITAR-TASS said a decision on deploying such a force could only be taken by a council of Commonwealth leaders acting on the request of one or more states. Peacekeepers could only intervene with the agreement of the various parties to a given conflict.

Four CIS states — Ukraine, Belarus, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan — have not yet signed the agreement, but still have time to do so before a summit meeting next month in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek.

## Republicans prepare for make-or-break convention for Bush

**HOUSTON (R)** — U.S. President George Bush's re-election campaign is counting on a picture-perfect Republican national convention and a display of unity to put the party back into the running in the polls.

But omens were mixed during the week leading up to Monday's opening session of the four-day gathering here.

The underdog at this point in the presidential election race, Mr. Bush will use the convention to tell the American people where he will take them if voters award him a second term.

"Gloves are going to be off and the president is going to lay out three things: What he's accomplished, what he needs to do better, and where he wants to lead us the next four years," said Republican Chairman Rich Bond.

Party stars including first lady Barbara Bush and former President Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford will help him during the four days of carefully orchestrated speeches and events.

They hope to convince voters they should reject the Democratic ticket of Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton and Tennessee Senator Al Gore.

Mr. Bush and his running mate Vice President Dan Quayle — a pair who a year ago were widely considered certain to win four more years in the White House — now face well behind the Democrats although they have gained some ground in the most recent

polls.

While Mr. Clinton led Mr. Bush by a two-to-one margin in many polls taken shortly after last month's Democratic national convention, a CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll released Thursday gave Mr. Clinton a narrower but still daunting lead of 56 to 37 per cent.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Quayle, nonetheless predict that they will offer a convincing challenge when they take on the Democrats in the run-up to the Nov. 3 election.

"We're ready to take our case to the American people," Mr. Quayle said in an interview Friday. "The president will define his vision, establish the message, rally the troops. When that happens you will see a very competitive race."

Party leaders say a reasonable "bounce" from a successful effort would halve Mr. Clinton's lead.

Mr. Bush has been buoyed by a stiff shakeup in which he moved Jim Baker, his friend for 35 years, from the State Department to the White House, replacing Chief of Staff Sam Skinner who was shifted to a Republican Party post with vague duties.

Pat Buchanan, the president's right-wing challenger in primary elections, plans to endorse Mr. Bush during a Monday speech and "will do nothing to harm the Republican Party between now and election day," his sister and campaign manager Bay Buchanan told reporters.

But on the downside, Mr. Bush has been forced to publicly respond to a tabloid report of an alleged 1984 affair with his long-time aide Jennifer Fitzgerald — a report he labelled "sleazy" and "a lie."

There are some apprehensions over a policy document, drafted by political manifesto or party platform writers, which moderates and conservatives alike said was well to the right of the party's winning 1988 platform.

A divisive and emotional debate over abortion in the platform committee led to the defeat of efforts to soften the party's 1988 endorsement of a constitutional ban on abortion.

This has prompted those who support women's right to abortion to press for a debate on the issue at the convention.

Boosting their case was Barbara Bush, who hours after the platform's completion broke a 12-year silence on the issue to say abortion should be left to personal choice and not included in the platform — a contradiction of her husband's stance.

Further clouding the issue were militants from the anti-abortion operation rescue who threatened daily demonstrations in Houston throughout the convention to keep pressure on the party to maintain its opposition to abortion.

Some republican moderates said they feared the platform was too far to the right to appeal to the middle-of-the-road voters that Mr. Bush needs to win re-

election.

But Republican leaders said the policy document was valuable because it made clear the contrast between the views of the two parties and they predicted it would appeal to middle Americans.

Meanwhile, Republicans may be scoring some political points by attacking Mr. Clinton's economic programme, but political analysts say President George Bush has yet to put forward a convincing plan of his own.

"I think fundamentally voters are saying they want change and that is based largely but not entirely on the status of the economy," said Thomas Gallagher, political analyst for Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc.

"That is a difficult sentiment for the White House to overcome," he added. "President Bush has very few good options as long as voters want change."

One option is to discredit the economic plan being proffered by Mr. Clinton, the Democratic candidate.

Republicans on the congressional Joint Economic Committee went to the attack last week charging that Mr. Clinton's economic programme would increase taxes by \$150 billion and cost 1.8 million jobs in the first year.

Democrats on the same panel accused Republicans of distorting Mr. Clinton's programme and exaggerating the impact that taxes have on jobs.

They argued that Mr. Clinton's

plan to invest \$220 billion rebuilding the nation's infrastructure would create thousands of new jobs.

Mr. Bush is trying to persuade voters they would face higher taxes and government spending under a Democratic administration.

"I think he will score some points simply because he is casting some doubt on what really has been Mr. Clinton's strength so far, his detailed economic programme," Mr. Gallagher said.

Mr. Bush is expected to outline his vision for the economy Thursday when he addresses the Republican convention in Houston.

Incoming White House Chief of Staff James Baker, in a departure from tradition, touched on the economic themes Mr. Bush would follow in the campaign.